



# The Village Spotlight

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



*The Pride We Foster Today will  
reflect upon the Pride We Have Tomorrow.*

## A Message from The Village of Grafton Officials

Community Pride is alive and well in the Village of Grafton and for this edition of the Spotlight newsletter, residents and businesses will have the opportunity to see some of the new and exciting things taking place. The Village Spotlight is designed to be a publication that informs and updates the people in town, so they feel connected with a direct link to our elected leadership, community operations, what businesses to patronize and more. Mailed on a quarterly basis, the Village of Grafton certainly hopes that the community finds this publication to be useful, informative and emblematic of the pride we all share today.

Inside this edition, readers will find important commentary on an initiative being spearheaded by one of our community's Councilman to help save valuable Village dollars, an update on some new activities at the waste water treatment center and view a calendar of upcoming events. A report and listing of the Charter Review Commission is also outlined inside this edition as well. A new column that is being featured is our Citizens Spotlight, which is an opportunity for people to read about dedicated residents in our community. Village officials intend for readers to get to know one another a little bit better by including a column such as this. The citizens of our community are very important, and this newsletter is a chance to showcase the fine men and women who comprise Grafton.

The Village of Grafton would like to also thank the sponsors of this publication, who take the time and energy to place an advertisement inside. Please remember to patronize these businesses, as they are the lifeblood of this community. Take note of the advertisements and stop by to share in the comraderie we jointly have in this community.

Summertime is the perfect season of the calendar year to come together with family and friends, enjoy a picnic, take in a youth ball game or stroll down main street on a warm summer evening. Grafton is definitely on-the-move, and your continued support is valuable to village officials. The fireworks display is currently scheduled for Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at dusk, and the Village can think of no better time than to come together, share in patriotism and welcome the warmer temperatures together.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer of 2018. Thank you for your continued support.

*The Village of Grafton Officials*



**Downtown Beautification** - The community should know that favorable weather is here to stay when Liz and Charlie Hook, along with the service crew in the Village of Grafton, are hanging the decorative streetscape flowers in Downtown.



**Community Pride** - Carol Hanrahan stands amidst her beautiful garden outside of her Downtown Grafton home, which she has meticulously planned and cultivated over the years.



## Councilman Matt Dukles Helps Community Recoup Approximately \$190,000 Over Last Eight Years

In addition to serving as a veteran public official in the Village of Grafton, Matt Dukles has aided the community in another creative and financially beneficial way since beginning his public service in 2011: By auctioning off unused, unwanted or confiscated equipment, parts or other items, to the tune of nearly \$190,000 over the last eight years. Since he began on Council in 2011, Matt's approach has been to use GOVDEALS.COM, a legitimate, third-party website designed exclusively for municipal entities to auction off any unused or unwanted items who others may be in the market for purchasing. Over the years, some of the items auctioned off have included vehicles, pumps, office equipment, fire hydrants and more.

Councilman Dukles has a process that he follows before placing items on the website, which begins by simply "waiting." According to him, "I make sure that the Mayor and Village Council approve the auctioning of the item," says Councilman Dukles. "Then, I let the item sit even longer just to ensure that another need for it from another department doesn't surface first." Once items are in the clear, he posts pictures and descriptions of them to the GOVDEALS.COM website. All dollars for items return back to the general fund of the Village. Some of Councilman Dukles' more prestigious bid items have included:

- 2011 Dodge Charger \$2,950 +/-
- 1973 Fire Truck \$2,100 +/-
- Farm Tractor from the 1960s \$1,300 +/-
- 2010 Crown Victoria \$1,299 +/-
- Crack Seal machine \$16,500 +/-
- 2005 GMC 2500 Pick Up Truck \$9,200 +/-

The item that Councilman Dukles takes most pride in is the auctioning of a 1954 Jeep Willys that was no longer needed by the Village and ultimately netted the Village approximately \$6,000. Not only does the process of auctioning items earn the community vital dollars, but it saves the cost of the Village having to scrap the various items, most times, at our own expense. GOVDEAL.COM places a 7 – 8% charge on all auctioned items, which the Village adds in the form of a buyer's premium. Next time you see Councilman Dukles, be sure to thank him for helping the Village of Grafton creatively transform unused or unwanted items into meaningful dollars for our community.

"It's better than eBay," he concludes. Indeed, for the Village, it has been.



*Councilman Matt Dukles has made time to auction approvable, unused or unwanted Village equipment and items*



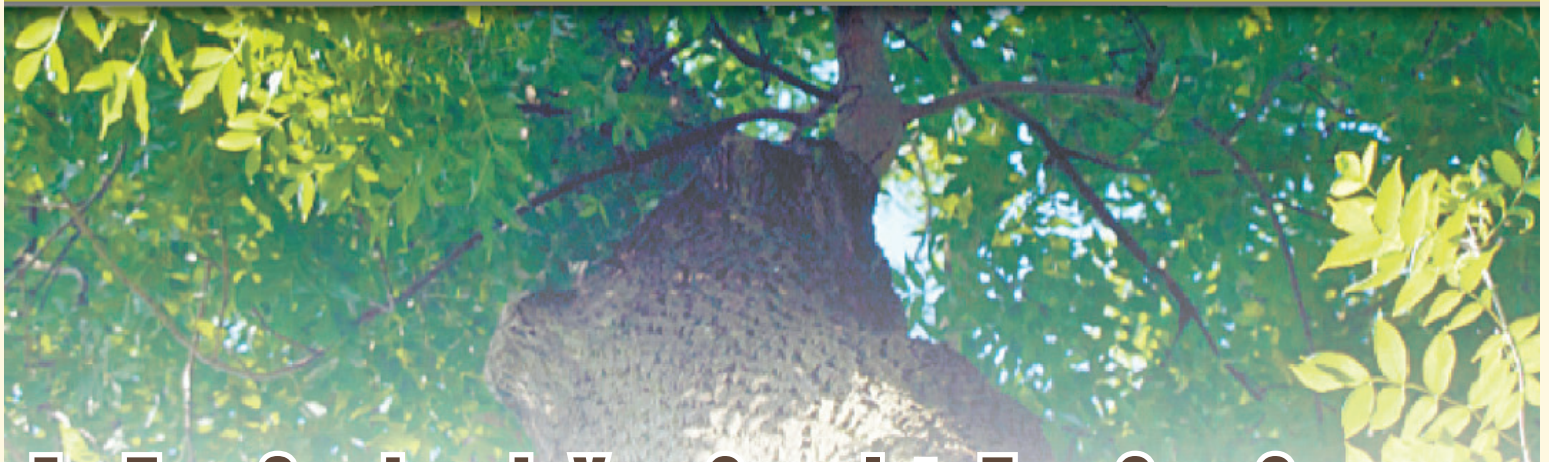
*His diligence has helped to recoup nearly \$190,000 into Village coffers*

## Wastewater Treatment Facility About to Get Busy for 2018

After a long and hard winter, the team at the Village of Grafton's Wastewater Treatment Facility is gearing up for a productive year at their location, to provide the Village the very best service while trying to reduce cost as efficiently as possible. Two major projects are in the process of being considered right now and serve as the basis of this article for residents. First, in the proper management of wastewater treatment facilities, a key variable is dissolved oxygen in the bioreactors. Oxygen is needed by the living organisms which helps to breakdown the material in the reactors and the levels of dissolved oxygen are a very important reading that is closely monitored. The team at the Grafton Wastewater treatment facility is examining the installation of flow meters that will provide more highly advanced and accurate readings to the team and determine how much dissolved oxygen is in the bioreactors, ultimately affecting the cost of providing the service. In addition, the team at the wastewater treatment facility is exploring the long-term cost benefit analysis of purchasing centrifuge technology to replace the current belt press being used to dewater waste material, sending out solids for disposal and returning water to the Black River. Doing so could save the community important dollars in the effort to become increasingly more efficient. The team at the Wastewater treatment facility will keep the community posted on the decision of centrifuge technology versus belt press.



*Things are getting busy at the Grafton Wastewater Treatment Facility*



## EcoTree Services is Your Complete Tree Care Company

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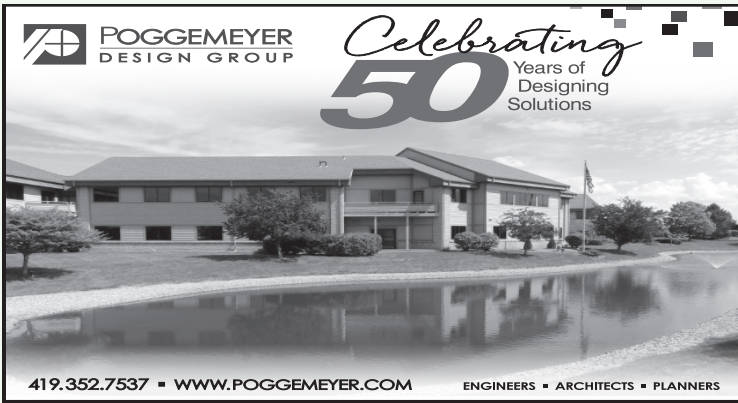
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# JUNE 4 - JULY 28

## 2018 Summer Reading Program

**SUMMER KICKOFF - SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 12-4 PM**  
**WILLOW PARK, GRAFTON**

**Nu-Blu Concert**  
**2-4 PM**

CONCERT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

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Entire Family!**  
**Games, Food, Prizes**



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## SHRED AND DUMPSTER DAYS IN THE VILLAGE

Please mark your calendars for June 30th for the second annual Shred/Dumpster day in the Village of Grafton to be held at 1111 Elm Street from 9:00 am to Noon or until the truck is full. The shredding service is a free service provided by the Lorain County Commissioners and is available for all of Lorain County and Vermilion City residents only, for the destruction of personal and confidential paper documents. Documents from companies, organizations, churches, schools and municipalities will not be accepted.

Five small blue plastic bags of shreddable items will be accepted. Please no large bags or boxes. Binders, clips and other metal items must be removed. Books, magazines, photographs, CD's or other non-paper items will not be accepted.

Dumpsters will also be available to Village residents for disposal of large non-hazardous items. Hazardous items can be disposed of at the Lorain County Collection Center at 540 South Abbe Road. The hours are Monday and Wednesday Noon to 6:00 pm and Saturday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Please bring a copy of your utility bill as proof of residency.



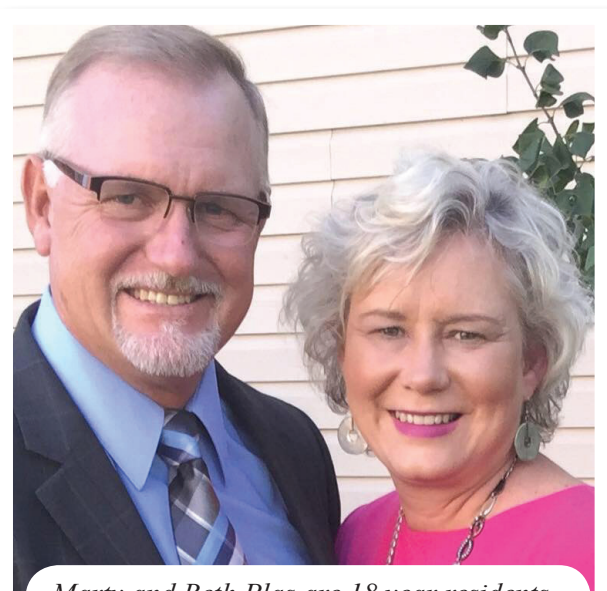
## Citizen Spotlight: Martin and Beth Plas: Dedicated to Building Our Community

The Citizens Spotlight is an opportunity for the community to get to know one of their very own neighbors. The Village intends to spotlight various citizens in this publication, so that with greater awareness, we all can grow in our pride together. Please read below.

When it comes to building community pride, Martin and Beth Plas come quickly to mind. For nearly two decades of residence in the Village of Grafton, Marty and Beth exhibit a unique combination of dedication, volunteerism, leadership and passion for our community. This blend of traits makes Marty and Beth Plas this edition's Citizens Spotlight. The Plas' home is on Wabash Street, near the old elementary school and have raised their family in our community. Their three children, Brent, Jenna and Logan are all graduates of the Midview Schools, have attended college and are now grown adults. "We were very involved as our children were being raised in the Grafton community," begins Beth. "My husband coached youth athletics while I helped as the registrar for the Midview Soccer organization." Having a quality school district was a big factor as to why Marty and Beth decided to move to the Village of Grafton. This, along with a job transfer and nearness to family members, brought them to Grafton in the year 2000.

Since then, the Plas' have remained quite involved in the community, and desired to help build and foster an even greater sense of it with continued involvement. Most notably, Beth serves as President of the Friends of the Grafton-Midview Public Library, a non-profit organization that is dedicated to raising funds to support the community's wonderful library. She cites the "Read Between the Wines" event as a past activity that was classy and formal in nature, one that raised nearly \$100,000 for the local library, but also, promoted and strengthened a sense of community. The Plas family also remains actively involved in their local parish, at Our Lady Queen of Peace.

Marty, who works at the Lorain-Medina Rural Electrical Cooperative and Beth, who works at Lorain Community College, view Downtown Grafton as a crown jewel of the community. "We see the potential in Downtown Grafton on Main Street as the catalyst for positive momentum in the future," continues Beth. "People need to come downtown, patronize our businesses, interact with each other and experience the old town charm and character of Grafton." In terms of some of the favorite aspects of community life for Marty and Beth, they are quick to reference the parks, the new Gazebo that has been built and the Midview Schools as terrific aspects. And, after major renovations to their home, Marty and Beth Plas are planning to remain in the Village of Grafton for many years to come. Next time you see Marty and Beth Plas, be sure to introduce yourself. They are 100% devoted to building our community and chances are, they'll be asking you to dedicate yourself, to doing the same!



*Marty and Beth Plas are 18 year residents of the Village of Grafton, and serve as this edition's Citizens Spotlight!*





A picture of the 2018 Charter Review Commission, as they conduct their regular meetings in review of the Village's governing document.



Village Officials Mayor Dave DiVencenzo and Linda Bales attend a recent Charter Review meeting to thank the members for their dedication and service.

## 2018 Charter Review Commission

The Village of Grafton would like to thank the following individuals for serving as the 2018 Charter Review Commission:

### Village of Grafton Charter Review Commission

**Dan Spencer**  
**Rick Paul**  
**Tim Biranowski**  
**Tim Strah**  
**Melanie Palazzi**

This group's task will be to review the Village of Grafton Charter in great detail, and determine where there may be areas for improvement or amendment. This is a very important role that these individuals play. Their time, effort, thought and dedication to the community is very appreciated. Please join the Village in acknowledging their public service. Thank you to this group of individuals.



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# Upcoming Village Events



## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ JUNE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 Midview HS 2018 Commencement	2
3	4	5 Friends of GMPL 6:30 PM Council Meeting 7:30 PM	6	7 Last Day of School Midview Schools	8	9 Trash to Treasure Village Wide Garage Sale 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
10	11	12 GMPL Adult Social Hour 10:00 AM Midview Kiwanis 12:00 PM at Village Hall	13	14 Flag Day	15	16
17 Father's Day	18	19 Council Meeting 7:30 PM Planning/Zoning Commission Meeting TBA	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Midview Kiwanis 6:30 PM Location TBA	27	28	29	30 Shred/Dumpster Day 9:00 AM to 5:00

## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ JULY ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3 Friends of GMPL 6:30 PM Council Meeting 7:30 PM Fireworks 9:45 PM	4 Independence Day	5	6	7 GMPL Community History Group 11:00 AM
8	9	10 GMPL Adult Social Hour 10:00 AM Midview Kiwanis 12:00 PM at Village Hall	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Council Meeting 7:30 PM Planning/Zoning Commission Meeting TBA	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Midview Kiwanis 6:30 PM Location TBA	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ AUGUST ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4 GMPL Community History Group 11:00 AM
5	6	7 Council Meeting 7:30 PM	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Midview Kiwanis 12:00 PM at Village Hall	15	16	17	18
19	20 Lorain County Fair	21 Council Meeting 7:30 PM Planning/Zoning Commission Meeting TBA Lorain County Fair	22 Lorain County Fair	23 Lorain County Fair	24 Lorain County Fair	25 Lorain County Fair
26 Lorain County Fair	27	28 Midview Kiwanis 6:30 PM Location TBA	29 First Day of School, Midview Schools	30	31 GMPL Adult Craft Night 6:00 PM	

## Non-Emergency Contact Information

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Streets	(440) 926-2260
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Police (non emergency)	(440) 926-2261

