



# 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 Mayor Dave DiVencenzo



Village of Grafton  
Mayor David DiVencenzo

On behalf of the Village of Grafton, I write to you as we approach the “Dog Days of Summer,” with continued excitement for our community at the moment and for things to come in the future. Thank you to everyone who participated and enjoyed this year’s fireworks display to honor our nation’s 242nd Birthday. Perhaps at no other time of the year, are the emotional attachments to our nation so profound. The residents of Grafton are proud, patriotic and passionately American and I express my gratitude toward those who joined in the celebration. Our fireworks display is possible due to

the generosity of many individual and corporate level sponsors, and I thank those people and entities who contributed to this year’s display.

Throughout the summer, you have undoubtedly seen various infrastructure projects underway. The Village views these projects as investments in our future, since the community intends to enjoy the various improvements to our streets, water system, sidewalks and other utilities as long-term assets that will benefit many

generations of Grafton residents. Thank you for your patience and your support as the Village continues with these needed infrastructure projects.

The Charter Review Commission has officially completed its work and the amendments that will be sent to the voters in November are outlined in this publication. In addition to this listing, the Village will put out a full explanation of each of these Charter Review Amendments in the fall edition of the Village Pride newsletter. These proposed amendments come at the close of the hard work of a handful of individuals who invested time, talents and energy to contemplate how the suggestions would improve our community. I applaud them for their efforts. Once again, please see inside to learn more.

The Village of Grafton is on the move! In nearly every facet of community life, residents and businesses are being stirred into action to help improve their own lives, and in the process, enhance the community. Please read through this publication, see the activities, volunteerism and accomplishments being made. As always, I am your proud mayor and I respectfully and enthusiastically serve you, the community, in this role. Thank you for your continued support of our fine Village.

Mayor Dave DiVencenzo



Village Hall and several of the parks in Grafton received some tender love and care as part of Pride Day in our community and throughout Lorain County.



More than 120 hours of volunteer time was invested to beautify our community. See more inside!



## Grafton Residents Participate in Shredding/Dumpster Effort to Promote Recycling

On Saturday, June 30, 2018, many residents came together to participate in Shred/Dumpster Day in the Village of Grafton. With the opportunity to shred unneeded documents and dispose of unwanted materials around residents' respective homes, the Village of Grafton promoted recycling as a desirable method of disposal for renewable or reusable items along with enhancing the environment. In total, 3 full dumpsters were completely filled with items along with an additional 2,000 lbs. of material for disposal. The Village of Grafton would like to thank Village personnel who helped with the event, as well as Republic Services for the dumpsters. The effort was supported by the Lorain County Commissioners and the Solid Waste District who supplied the Shred Truck, that was purchased with an Ohio EPA grant. This event represents just another way that people are coming together in the Village of Grafton to enhance the community and make our town a highly desirable place to live, work, visit and raise a family.



*The Shred/Dumpster Day Initiative is sponsored by the Lorain County Commissioners. Residents disposed of more than 3 full dumpsters of materials in an environmentally friendly manner.*

## Village of Grafton Water Tower... One Generation to the Next!



Village of Grafton residents have undoubtedly taken note of the constructing of the new water tower, the main structure for which is fully erected. Next steps include final inspections, tower coating and other necessary infrastructure enhancements. In the nearby photo, the new tower stands with the longtime water tower beyond and in the distance. The old water tower is scheduled for decommissioning and removal later this year.

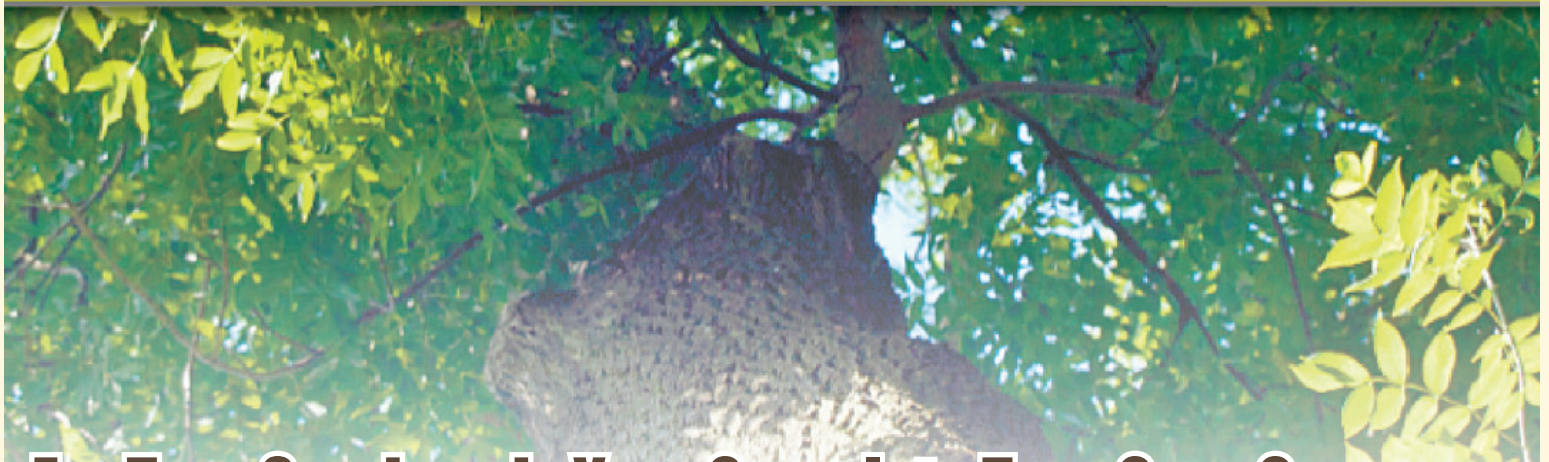
**The Village of Grafton  
is on the Move!**

## Village Pride Day Demonstrates People's Love for Grafton

As a way to demonstrate their pride in the Village of Grafton, more than 40 individuals came together earlier this summer to help beautify and enhance the Village through spirited volunteerism and a love for community. Among the volunteers who helped were Cub Scout Pack #152, Boy Scout Troop #152, Girl Scout Troop #50652 and the Grafton Hot Stove teams. In addition, their parents and siblings participated in the various volunteer activities, along with a handful of Village personnel. Volunteers planted beautiful flowers and mulched at North Park, Village Hall and Bicentennial Park received a fresh application of mulch while the Willow Park sign area received a general clean-up. Other places receiving the attention and energy of volunteers were the Veteran's Memorial and the VFW Hall. In total, more than 120 hours of volunteer time was invested in our community! This effort comes as part of the Annual Lorain County Pride Day initiative, where volunteers from all over the county took time to beautify and enhance their respective communities. The Village of Grafton has always cultivated a spirit of community pride and volunteerism, and this event certainly aligned with such a tradition. The inclusion of so many of our community's youth was a unique characteristic for this particular Pride Day, which brings a great deal of delight and optimism to Village leaders about the future of our community. On behalf of the Village of Grafton, thank you very much to all the volunteers who participated in the Pride Day event and for your time, efforts and energy to enhancing the wonderful Village of Grafton. We look forward to next year's event!



*Residents of all ages volunteered to beautify the community on Pride Day.*



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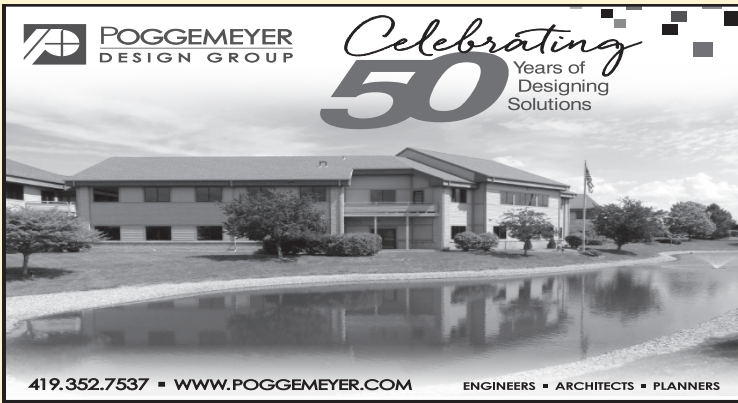
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## Village of Grafton Seeking to Make the Community “More Connected” Through Grant Approval

The Village of Grafton is certainly “on the move,” figuratively and literally and an effort has recently been launched to improve the “connectivity” of our community. The Village of Grafton was recently awarded a grant from the Northeast Ohio Area Coordinating Agency, (N.O.A.C.A.) through its Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (T.L.C.I.). This program seeks to provide assistance to communities and public agencies for integrated planning and land use projects which will ultimately enhance livability in a community. The Village is closely evaluating ways to improve the interconnectedness in the community so that people can more easily access Village businesses, restaurants, parks, and other amenities. Plans will be developed for transportation projects that will provide options for bicycle connections and trails and the expansion of recreation trails in the Village. This exciting initiative is in its very early planning phases, as Village officials are starting to analyze traffic signalization, map roadways and collect other important mobility data to determine how to best connect the community. Such an exciting opportunity is being pursued to promote investment in our business corridor, generate ideas for more safe and reliable transportation sources and improve the overall health of our residents. This effort will include community input from residents, businesses and other stakeholders to share feedback and to generate ideas. Stay tuned for more information regarding this effort to further connect the community and enhance the charm of Grafton Village, as “A Place to Call Home.”

## Charter Review Commission Update

The work of the Charter Review Commission has officially come to a close and the Village would like to preview the amendments that this public body plans to include on the November ballot this year. Please see the requests below:

- AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE VILLAGE OF GRAFTON, OF A PROPOSAL TO AMEND ARTICLE VII, SECTION I OF THE CHARTER FOR THE VILLAGE OF GRAFTON, OHIO, TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, AND DELETE SUBSECTION (C)(7) THEREUNDER, REQUIRING PLANS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND REGULATIONS MADE BY THE BOARD OF ZONING AND BUILDING APPEALS BE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL BEFORE THE SAME SHALL BE CONSIDERED OFFICIAL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
- AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE VILLAGE OF GRAFTON, OF A PROPOSAL TO AMEND ARTICLE VIII, SECTION II OF THE CHARTER FOR THE VILLAGE OF GRAFTON, OHIO, TO REQUIRE THAT THE LIMITATION OF DEBT FOR THE MUNICIPALITY CONFORM TO THE DEBT LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
- AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE VILLAGE OF GRAFTON, OF A PROPOSAL TO AMEND ARTICLE V, SECTION I OF THE CHARTER FOR THE VILLAGE OF GRAFTON, OHIO, TO MODIFY THE PROCEDURE BY WHICH THE POSITION OF CLERK-TREASURER IS DETERMINED, FROM AN ELECTED POSITION TO AN APPOINTED POSITION EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2020, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

The Village of Grafton will post the specific ballot language of each of these items on its website and will include information which explains each request in the next “Village Pride” newsletter. Once again, thank you to the committee for your time, effort and energy.

# Citizen Spotlight:

## Carol Hanrahan

### 990 Main Street, Grafton, Ohio

For nearly three decades, devoted Village of Grafton resident, Carol Hanrahan, has called 990 Main Street, her home. With one of the most recognizable residences in the entire community, people may not know how much work, enhancement and pure love has been placed into the home by Carol... who recently turned 89 years young. This edition of our very own Citizen Spotlight shines brightly on Carol Hanrahan, who embodies the quaintness of our community along with an uncanny spirit, determination and pride.

After spending her childhood in Cleveland, Ohio, Carol moved to pursue a career in Chicago, where she also found and married her husband, Joseph, an Irish fireman to whom she was wed in 1966. Over the course of nearly 30 years of commuting from Chicago back here to visit her sister Bernice, who lived in a nearby community, the two would make a hobby of visiting antique stores and shopping when Carol was in town. As Carol approached retirement in the late 1980s, and after the untimely passing of her husband in 1984, she began looking for homes nearer to her sister in the Grafton area. When 990 Main Street went on the market, Carol immediately saw the potential in restoring the home and making it a place for people to visit.

Built in 1891, the home was in need of substantial repair, enhancement and upgrade, and Carol got right to work. Aided with her sister Bernice, and a few devoted friends, the restoration began with Carol's direction and hard work. In total, since 1987 when she purchased the home, the following upgrades have been made: home completely rewired, completely replumbed, insulated, new walls erected, added a bathroom, laundry room, back porch and shed. Today, the finished project features beautiful hardwood floors throughout, a charming parlor, a decoratively painted stairway leading to several upstairs bedrooms and more. In fact, once completed, the home was actually opened up on the weekends as a shop selling trinkets and antiques.

Carol loves Grafton because she says the community is all about love and friendship. She not only has many friends, most of which from her home parish, Our Lady Queen of Peace, but even more acquaintances from those who simply drop by to admire her lovely gardens... another highlight of the property. Featuring pink phlox, a color-favorite of Carol's, purple coneflower, bee balm, peonies and many other varieties of flowers, Carol has a true joy for entertaining, inviting people to her home, throwing lunches, parties and showers. The notable front porch is a favorite among many, who visit during the many parades that take place during the good weather months. Carol's brother-in-law, Tom, still makes a yearly visit around Memorial Day to do a spring clean-up.

Carol Hanrahan is our Citizen Spotlight because of her longevity in this community and for embodying a sense of friendship and love too uncommon these days. She welcomes people to her home. She cherishes their presence. She envies the people who have lived here their whole lives because of all the people they have come to know. She wants the legacy of her home to be that someone would love it, as much as she has, for the last 30 years. Carol, you are an inspiration. You are Grafton past, present and future... all in one treasured human being. Congratulations on being this edition's Spotlight.



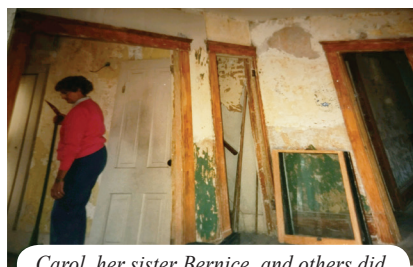
*Carol Hanrahan in front of her gardens at 990 Main Street*



*The House in 1980s*



*The House in 1990s*



*Carol, her sister Bernice, and others did many of the upgrades of their home by hand.*



*Carol and her friend, June, having a conversation on the beloved front porch. Carol and June have been friends since kindergarten..*



*Carol treasures her flower boxes, which feature lovely pink petunias.*



## Unprecedented Progress in Moving Village Forward With Needed Public Improvements

The Village of Grafton has swiftly completed, or is in the progress of beginning a great deal of public works projects that will have major long-term benefits for our community. As reported in several previous editions of the Village Spotlight newsletter, these roads, water and other capital improvement projects stand to benefit current and future generations of Grafton residents and businesses. Some projects are completed with the help of contracted vendors of the Village. Other projects are performed by personnel. When you see our Village team out and working on such capital improvements, be sure to say hello and thank them. Among the most important projects include the completion of the Main Street Water Line, an undertaking which has taken several months to accomplish. In addition, the Booster Pump Station project is nearing completion, a process which was reported to the community in the State of the Village publication earlier this year. Closely related to this project, the community will see the initiation of the process to demolish the previous water treatment plant. Major infrastructure projects are not the only priorities for the Village over the last several months. The Village is also pleased to report a major land purchase on State Route 83, which was completed in late May, and which was put on the market to lease for farming earlier this summer. The Village is currently reviewing the top three proposals for Solar Energy opportunities. More to come on this in the near future. Finally, the community will see miscellaneous roadway repairs commencing mid-August that are expected to be completed by mid-to-late September. Thank you for your patience... as you can see, Grafton is on the move, with unprecedented levels of activity for the future.



*Summertime is a great time for Village staff to get projects accomplished. When you see a Village helper, be sure to thank them for their service and efforts for our community!*



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# Upcoming Village Events

**\*August 20 – 26, 2018  
173rd Annual Fair**

**\*August 29, 2018  
First Day of School for  
Midview Students**



## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ SEPTEMBER ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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

## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ OCTOBER ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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

## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ NOVEMBER ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3 GMPL Community History Group 11:00 AM
4	5	6 Election Day Friends of GMPL Book Sale Council Meeting 7:30 PM	7 Friends of GMPL Book Sale	8 Friends of GMPL Book Sale	9 Friends of GMPL Book Sale	10
11	12 Veterans Day	13 Midview Kiwanis 12:00 PM at Village Hall	14 Last scheduled day of brush pick-up	15	16	17
18	19	20 Council Meeting 7:30 PM Planning/Zoning Commission Meeting TBA	21	22 Thanksgiving Day	23	24
25	26	27 Midview Kiwanis 6:30 PM Location TBA	28	29	30	

*\*random pick may continue until the first snow fall  
contingent on dry-periods of weather.*

## The Village THANKS our Fireworks SPONSORS!

The Village of Grafton would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their generosity in making the 2018 fireworks display so special. We salute you!

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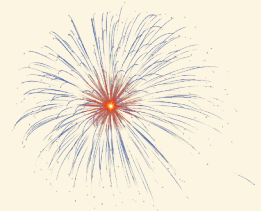
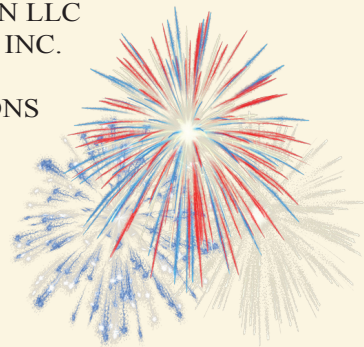
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