



# 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.*

## Message from Mayor Dave DiVencenzo

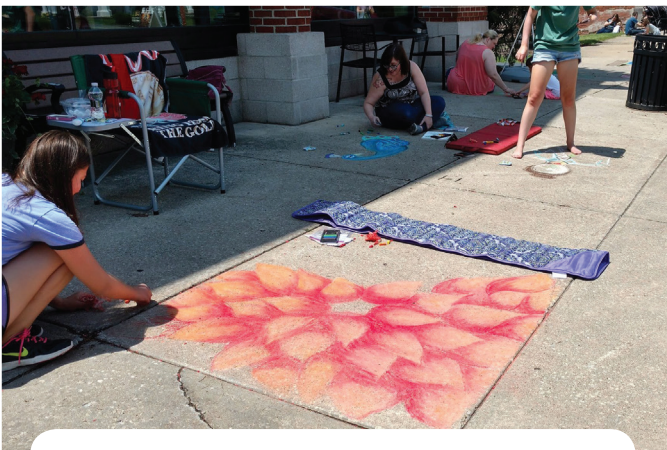
Village of Grafton Residents,

With Summer in full swing, I hope everyone took the time to enjoy many of the outdoor events that had taken place in the last few months. On behalf of the entire Village, I am proud to recognize a new addition to our already great variety of parks in our community: Bicentennial Park. Grafton's Bicentennial Park is located on the corner of Main Street and Mechanic Street. Essentially revitalizing a vacant plot of land for community common space, Bicentennial Park is a gem that generations can enjoy for years to come. It is anchored by a beautifully constructed gazebo. Even better, the initial projections for the cost of this park were \$139,000. After further "pencil-sharpening," the Village requested only \$80,000. With the help of local contractor Kazmierczak Construction, the final project was completed on-time and under budget, with a total final cost of \$69,000. The entire

purpose of the construction of this park is to help celebrate Grafton's 200th birthday, but also to continue building pride in the brand that has been created over the last several years. Bicentennial Park has the makings of becoming a focal point for downtown and the entire community. Thank you to the individuals who helped to elevate the importance of this project.

While Bicentennial Park is meant to further the bond among Village residents, an interesting link to the community's past is woven into the landscape design here as well. Two large slabs of sandstone were used to make the retaining walls for the flower beds in the park. This sandstone represents the very foundation upon which Grafton was built. In particular, these two individual stones were discovered in 2016 during the Mechanic Street reconstruction project, and date to the late 1800s, likely having been used to store water for the fire department's "cistern." This stone marks the link

*(continued on page 2)*



*The Grafton community enjoying Bicentennial Day festivities at the annual Chalk Walk.*



*Grafton's new Bicentennial Park.*





*Village of Grafton Mayor David DiVencenzo*

## A Message from Mayor Dave DiVencenzo

*(continued from page 1)*

to our community today and our heritage. When visiting Bicentennial Park, take time to reflect on this interesting story.

The Village of Grafton dedicated this new park at the Bicentennial Day celebration on Saturday, July 1st. Along with the gazebo dedication came many fun events like the chalk walk where residents decorated Main Street, the train display by Grafton's Historical Society, the Bicentennial parade which was a huge success, as well as the Party in the Park festivities. Later on that night, a great fireworks display took place at dusk. It was wonderful seeing the Grafton community out celebrating together, and I thank everyone who has worked so hard to make all these festivities possible.

To close, I want to specifically recognize Doris Wildenheim, the Chairperson of Grafton's Bicentennial Committee. Doris has been the driving force of all the Bicentennial efforts and events for the Village of Grafton, and at 99 years young, Doris has been involved in every aspect of the Bicentennial. None of these endeavors could have been done without her vast knowledge and constant efforts. To thank Doris for her astounding hard work she received commendations at the Bicentennial Day celebrations from Governor John Kasich, Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor, U.S. Senator Rob Portman, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, Ohio Senator Gayle Manning, House of Representatives from the 55th District Nathan Manning, and the Village of Grafton. Doris, you continue to outdo yourself and the entire Village of Grafton thanks you abundantly. Stay tuned for more to come in the next Spotlight edition. I hope to continue seeing the Grafton community at the Bicentennial events that are scheduled for the rest of the year. Let's keep celebrating Grafton's 200th year!

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Doris Wildenheim and Carlee Mahajan, who have both played instrumental roles in helping the Village to celebrate the Bicentennial, look on at the recent parade. Thank you both for your service!



The Village of Grafton thanks councilperson Lynette Kitts for taking a lead role, as well as the entire Village of Grafton council in taking part in creating beautiful flower arrangements that brighten up downtown Grafton.



## Meet Grafton's New Fire Chief: Randy Kimbro

The Village of Grafton welcomes Fire Chief Randy Kimbro! Randy was sworn in July 1st, starting his official duties serving the community. Randy's background is quite extensive, having 30 years of fire and EMS experience. Randy has served as a part-time firefighter/paramedic for the City of Olmsted Falls since 1988. During his time at Olmsted Falls, Randy aided in the construction of the new fire station, collaborated with many other departments to develop a regional dispatch center for neighboring communities, and still serves as a senior mentor to other firefighters. Randy has a strong history in fire investigation and is certified in arson investigation and instruction. He also contributes by serving on a regional fire investigation team that helps 21 communities in Northeast Ohio. Randy possesses all the certifications and requirements the Village requires for the Fire Chief position, including instructor status for ACLS, PALS, CPR, and ITLS. Randy is also an instructor at the fire academy and in the paramedic program for Cuyahoga County College, Southwest General Health Center Education Program, and the City of Hudson EMS Department. Randy's knowledge goes far beyond fire and EMS. He holds an associate degree in Fire and Emergency Medical Services from Cuyahoga Community College, a bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems and an Executive Masters of Business Administration from Baldwin-Wallace University. Randy's background in the information technology and business field is vast, working with companies such as Sherwin-Williams, KeyCorp and AmTrust Bank. He volunteers for the Cleveland FBI and FBI Citizens Academy doing presentations on cyber-crime and Internet Safety for Kids across the region. The Village administration has no doubt that Randy will serve the entire community well and welcomes him with open arms! Please come meet Chief Kimbro and the Grafton Fire Department at their open house on Sunday, October 8th from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Station #2 in North Park.



*Chief Randy Kimbro,  
Grafton Village Fire*

## Business Feature: The Spitzer Hardware and Supply Company

The Spitzer Hardware and Supply Company has been a part of the Grafton community for 113 years. Founded by George Spitzer in 1904, the Spitzer name has grown to be so much more. Coming from humble beginnings in Grafton, Ohio, the Spitzer's have taken on the car business by storm, going on to their 5th generation. Alan Spitzer is the third generation in the family, and his father John, was born and raised on Grafton's very own Mechanic Street. John expanded the Spitzer name by selling cars which truly came after a happenstance meeting with none other than Henry Ford himself, when a train Ford was traveling on briefly stopped in Grafton to take on water. George Spitzer and Henry Ford made an agreement that he would begin to sell the Ford Model-T, and the rest is history. Later, the Spitzer's opened up a dealership on Main Street in Grafton which continued to grow into the empire it is today. Alan Spitzer is very proud of the fact that his family is going onto its fifth generation. Less than 10% of family businesses make it to the 2nd generation, and less than 1% make it to the 3rd generation. It's clear that the Spitzer family is not going anywhere for many years to come!

On July 1st, 2017, Grafton's Bicentennial Day, the Spitzer Hardware and Supply Company had its grand reopening, and a proclamation from the Village of Grafton was given to the store exclaiming that July 1st, 2017 will be Spitzer Hardware and Supply Company Day in the Village of Grafton, a day that the pride and appreciation of this establishment will forever be celebrated. Five generations of the Spitzer family attended this celebratory day along with friends and Grafton community members, all there to commemorate the Spitzer legacy, history and success that has continued to be a thriving part of the village. The Spitzer Hardware store could not be more thankful for the entire community and continues to serve the Village of Grafton well with good prices, selection and service. Spitzer Hardware and Supply Company will continue to be a valuable part of the Grafton community for many years to come.



*Spitzer Hardware Grand Re-opening*



*Spitzer Family with Mayor DiVencenzo*



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## Council Commentary: Councilwoman Liz Sauer

Isn't it a wonderful time to be part of the Grafton Village Community!?!

There are so many reasons to be proud to live in Grafton. Since I started on council almost four years ago, I cannot believe the progress that has happened in the Village. Just to name a few, starting with the completion of the Rt. 57 and Splash Pad Projects, to the start and finish of the Mechanic Street and Gazebo/Bicentennial Park Projects. We, on council, are looking forward to completing many more improvements to the Village. The most prominent one, which will be starting within the year, is the new Water Tower Project. This project will be beneficial to all Grafton residents and will be located in the downtown area.

I am also so glad that I chose to be an active member of the Bicentennial Committee. Grafton residents should be excited to show off our Village with all the Bicentennial events that have happened and the ones planned for the rest of this year. Our official "Bicentennial Day" on July 1, 2017 was a great success! The weather turned out to be beautiful and it was nice to see so many citizens in the downtown area

helping to celebrate Grafton's 200th birthday! The fireworks at the end of the evening were the perfect thing to top off a wonderful day!

Other Bicentennial events that are planned for this year include: 9/2- "Blast from The Past" Yesterday's Memories in Willow Park from 10 am- 8 pm; 10/8-

Fireman's Open House- North Park from 2-5 pm- come and meet the new Fire Chief, Randy Kimbro; 11/5- Walking Quarry Tour- 1 pm at the Parson's Road entrance, and coming back by popular

demand- Old Fashioned Christmas from 6-8 pm on 12/1.

There are many more events in the works- so stay tuned!

Although 4-years have passed, we all see the progress Grafton has made. While greatly appreciative of your trust, I am excited and hopeful about playing a role in Grafton's pathway ahead, a pathway that I believe will realize continued and even greater success!

Thank you,

Liz Sauer



Councilwoman Liz Sauer

### 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](http://www.gjwb.net)

## Did You Know?

The first school in Grafton opened in 1849 on Rawson property near Willow Park, which then moved to Chestnut Street in 1868. The school building was replaced in 1876 with a complete construction of a 12-year school in 1892. The Elm Street school building, 1936-1955, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Today, the current education center is the Midview School campus on Capel Road. This is the result of the 1953 consolidation of four area schools.



Village Administrator  
Joe Price

## Services Update

**Joe Price, Village Administrator  
Making greater Grafton  
even GREATER!**

*The third of a 4-part series  
highlighting Grafton's commitment  
to modern infrastructure - 2017*

Grafton Electric is your municipally owned utility supplying the minute-by-minute electric power to residential and commercial properties throughout Grafton. To assure this, power must be generated, transmitted to the Village power substations,

distributed throughout the municipally owned and operated power grid and delivered to our customers on demand.

The day-to-day operation of this utility requires a number of contracted agreements, industry associations, ongoing

engineering, a significant number of moving and stationary parts, a whole lot of infrastructure ...and the qualified and professional staff to organize, plan, and maintain the power supply we all rely on.

**Supply:** Grafton's purchasing power begins with its long-standing association with AMP (American Municipal Power). Like other business's claim of "humble beginnings in Grafton, Ohio," the AMP association of municipalities began back in 1971 with nine communities and the Village of Grafton being one of them. As a charter member of this non-profit organization, AMP now represents communities in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, Indiana, Maryland and a joint action agency in Delaware, currently serving an estimated 650,000 customers. You can read more about AMP at <https://www.amppartners.org/about/history>.

**Demand:** Supply and demand is an appropriate phrase to describe any electric delivery system. Grafton Village Electric receives power delivered to two substations strategi-



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## Services Update

(continued from page 5)

cally located within the village. The substations then transmit the electricity through many transformers, power lines both overhead and below ground are processed again through transformers and delivered to customers on demand. Working back from the endpoint, it is the demand for energy that determines the amount of power that must be generated and transmitted. AC current is not stored power and when generated and transmitted, must be consumed, or is lost. This requires electric generation suppliers to generate more energy than anticipated demand, constantly feeding the transmission and always relying on provisions for alternate forms of power generation when system demand calls for it.

Questions are often asked is, how does demand effect my bill, and what can I do to lower demand? During PEAK periods when the demand is greatest, power generation requires additional generation to come 'on-line,' significantly increasing the cost of generation during high-demand. This ultimately effects the cost all electric users pay. The easiest way for the average electric customer to reduce system demand is to lower energy usage during very hot weather between the hours of 11 AM and 5 PM, and setting thermostats lower during very cold periods of weather. For those customers that use electricity to heat water, consider not heating water during the hours of 11 AM and 5 PM.

Your electric utility is also committed to do its part in lowering demand. As you see our electric department working throughout the village, often you'll see them replacing infrastructure we know will save energy, and lower peak demand. From the replacement of utility poles that will host

new transformers, to ongoing upgrades of the underground services in neighborhoods and the improvements to our substations, Grafton Electric is doing its part to better serve our customers. Another significant improvement that all can appreciate has come in the replacement of roadway street lighting, converting pole light to LED fixtures throughout the village. We believe by the end of 2018, all street lights will be LED, reducing the lighting demand by as much as 80% and significantly lowering maintenance costs ... a benefit all will receive!

### ***Fuel for thought:***

Electric system line work requires industry supported training, skill and risk that is rated as the 17th most dangerous profession in the U.S. Grafton Electric takes pride in its level of training, workmanship, and especially it's safety record. We hope you'll agree. As always, my office is always available for your comments and concerns. The fourth part of this series will address streets and parks, look for it in the November 2017 edition of the *Village Spotlight*.



– Joe Price

## Thank You Fireworks Supporters:

The Village of Grafton thanks all those who donated to help support the community's Independence Day fireworks celebration. This year was even more special as Grafton celebrated its Bicentennial. This exciting and celebratory event would not be possible without the help of all those who make up this wonderful community! Thank You!

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# Upcoming Village Events

## SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2 "Blast from the Past" Yesterday's Memories, Willow Park 10am-8pm
3	4 Labor Day	5 Council Meeting 7:30 pm	6 Brush Pick Up	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Brush Pick Up "Heritage Trail," Library 6 p.m.	14	15	16
17	18	19 Council Meeting 7:30 pm	20 Brush Pick Up	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Brush Pick Up	28	29	30

## OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3 Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m.	4 Brush Pick Up	5	6	7
8 Fireman's Open House, North Park, 2 pm-5 pm	9 Columbus Day	10	"Heritage Trail," Library 6 p.m. Brush Pick Up	12	13	14
15	16	17 Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m.	18 Brush Pick Up	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Brush Pick Up	26	27	28
29 Halloween Parade and Party, Fire Department	30	31 Halloween Trick or Treating				

## NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 Last Day of Brush Pick Up	2	3	4
5 Daylights Saving Time Ends Walking Quarry Tour, Parsons Road Park Entrance 1 p.m.	6	7 Election Day Council Meeting 7:30 pm	8 "Heritage Trail," Library 6 p.m.	9	10 Veterans Day (observed)	11 Veterans Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Council Meeting 7:30 pm	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



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Grafton, Ohio 44044

### Non-Emergency Contact Information

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**Lori Clark** (440) 926-2401 opt. 2  
Village Secretary [laclark@villageofgrafton.org](mailto:laclark@villageofgrafton.org)

Building (440) 926-2401 opt. 2

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