

A Year in Review



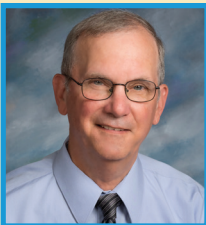
Village of Grafton State of the Village Report

A Publication Designed to "Look Back" at 2017:
A Productive Year in Grafton



**Village of Grafton
Mayor**

David DiVencenzo



**Council
President**

John Lescher



**Council
Member**

Matt Dukles



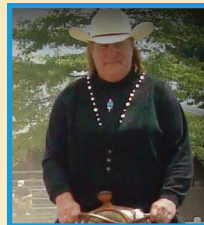
**Council
Member**

Jason Strah



**Council
Member**

Liz Sauer



**Council
Member**

Lynette Kitts

A Message from Mayor Dave DiVencenzo and Village Leadership

Dear Village of Grafton Residents,

Happy New Year!

It is with much excitement, anticipation for the future and pride in all that has been accomplished that the leadership of the Village corresponds to you with this State of the Village. **Grafton is the place to be in Lorain County.** Look around at the revitalization of our Downtown Corridor, the addition of new businesses and economic development, a deliberate enhancement of our parks and greenspace and investment in our infrastructure with roadway projects. Progress is everywhere you look. "The State of the Village" publication is designed to share a look back on all of the things we accomplished last year and preview things to come in 2018.

I must always thank the Council Members of the Village of Grafton. Their leadership, vision and spirit of collaboration on these accomplishments has certainly led to the excitement that we all can share. Each of them work respectfully with each other, bring their own respective ideas to the table and genuinely have the best interests of the community in mind. Next, I thank the staff of the Village, who work tirelessly to make Grafton one of the finest Villages in all of Lorain County and Northeast Ohio. Our work staff is loyal, hard-working and desires to see our Village be the best it can be. Finally, and most importantly, I thank the residents of our community.

Enjoy this State of the Village publication. Together, 'The Pride we foster today will reflect upon the pride we have tomorrow.'

David DiVencenzo
Mayor of Grafton

Special Thanks to Lori Clark!



Lori Clark serves as Village Secretary and Clerk of Courts. She is the very first person that people encounter when they enter Village Hall. Thank you very much to Lori, for her work in so many areas of the Village of Grafton!

2017 Legislative Update:

Village Council passed a total 29 Ordinances and 41 Resolutions in 2017. All can be viewed online through American Legal-Grafton, at www.villageofgrafton.org.

A few 2017 highlights include;

Ordinance(s) 17-001 Annexing land into the Village, 17-006 Plat acceptance of Fiddler's Green Phase 2, 17-008 providing EMS On Call services, 17-013 Amending the Zoning Map, 17-021 Amending Water Rates effective 01/01/2018, 17-022 Chapter 444 - Golf Carts, and 17-029 Adopting Electric Rules and Regulations.

Resolution(s) 17-002, 003, & 004 funding Water System improvements, 17-009 providing Technical Rescue Response with Lorain County, 17-011 approving Electric System improvements on Yarmouth, 17-025 approving Sanitary System improvements, and 17-028 renewing the rubbish collection agreement.



PUBLIC SAFETY

In the Village of Grafton, nothing is more important to the enhancement of community life than residents and businesses feeling their utmost safest at all times. That's why ensuring the success of our public safety forces is among the highest priority in the Village. In the section below, you will note a series of public safety criteria and data points. Please review for more information about how the Village goes above and beyond to protect you!

GRAFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

6,865 - the total number of logged calls made by GPD in 2017

572 - average number of logged calls per month

The Village Police Department consists of:

- 5 Full Time Employees
- 4 Part Time Employees
- 1 Secretary
- 4 Unpaid, Volunteer Auxiliary Officers
- The PD is led by veteran Chief Danny Clark



*In 2017, 4 officers, including Chief Danny Clark, were certified as Emergency Medical Responders (EMR's) to help stabilize and gather information when Police are the first to arrive to a call requiring medical assessment and care. Several officers are also members of the Lorain County Quick Response Team (QRT).

GRAFTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

236 - total emergency responses by GVFD in 2017

55 - total fire-related calls logged in 2017

The Village Fire Department consists of:

- 22 PART TIME employees
- 0 Full Time employees
- Of those, 6 are certified fire fighters
- 4 are EMS qualified
- 9 are cross-trained for both Fire and EMS
- 5 PTE's are currently enrolled in training to upgrade their certification
- Grafton has two fire stations, on Chestnut Street and in North Park, next to the Community Room
- The FD is led by Chief Randy Kimbro, a 30-year veteran firefighter



The Police and Fire Departments have a great working relationship that will only grow stronger in the future. Ultimately, the residents of Grafton benefit from our quality, hard-working safety forces.



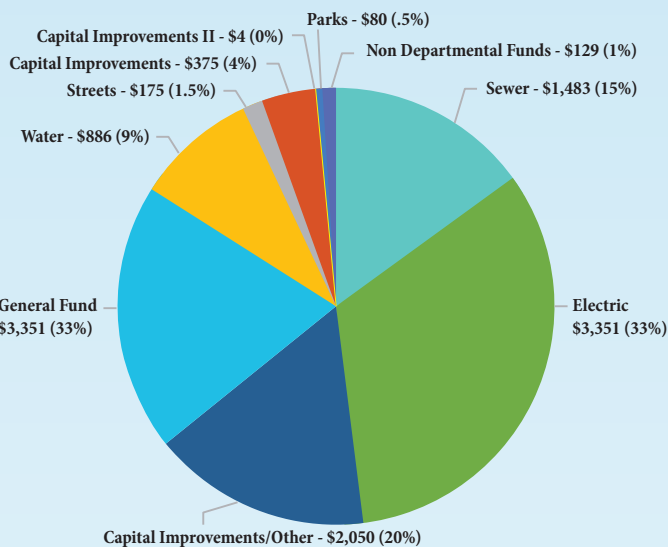
VILLAGE FINANCES

The calendar year of 2017 was a significant year for the Village of Grafton in terms of finances. As required by State Statute, the Village produces a series of reports that are all posted on the Village website. Below you will find a sequence of charts and graphs that should help residents to obtain an accurate overview of the Village finances from one year to the next.

**All dollar amounts in increment of \$1,000*

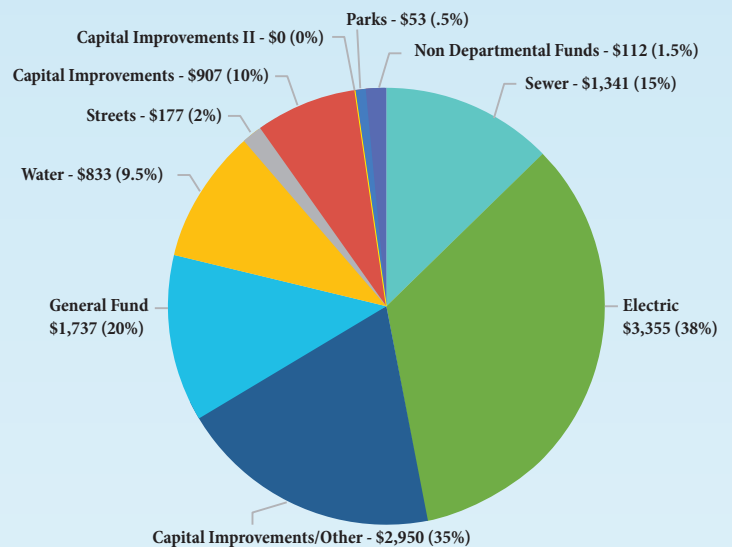
BUDGETED TOTALS

Revenues (through November 2017)

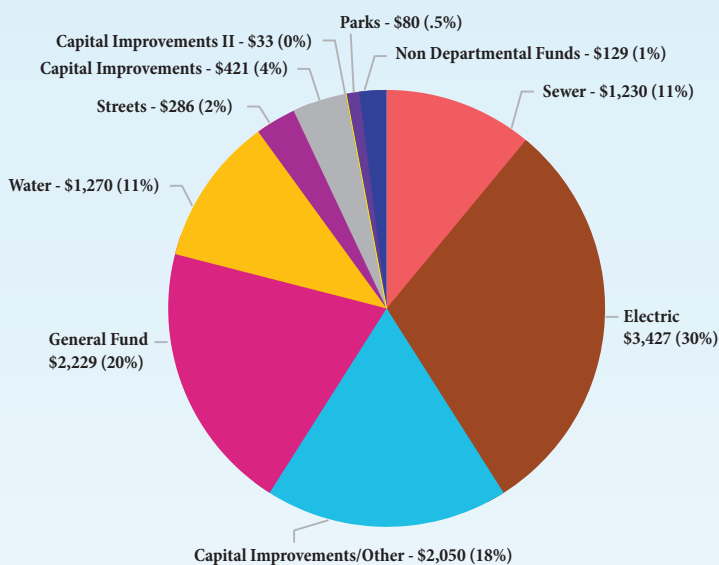


ACTUAL TOTALS

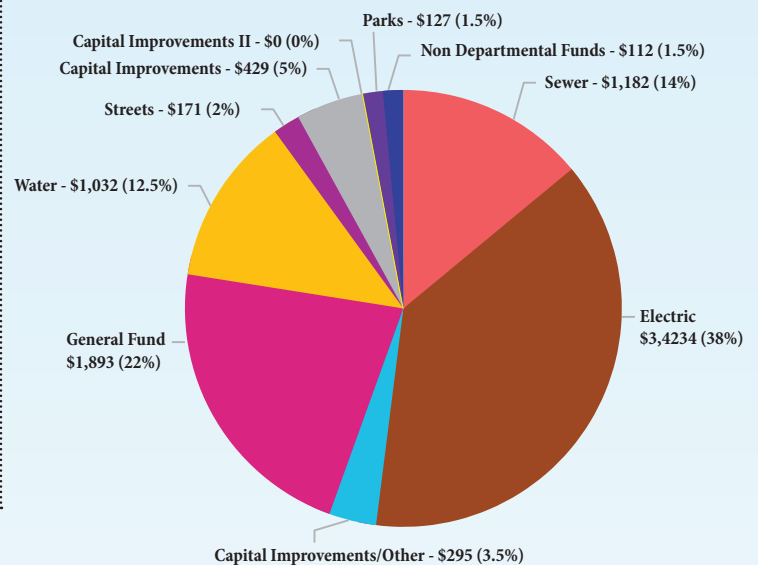
Revenues (through November 2017)



Expenses



Expenses



The Village of Grafton's Finance Team: Administrator Joe Price, Projects Coordinator Linda Bales, Clerk-Treasurer Amy Barnhart.

Finance Team... Doing the Most... With the Least!!

The finance team is always on the lookout for various forms of alternative funding that will help to offset traditional funding mechanisms to the village. Various entities that are continually pursued included Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who offer zero-interest or low-interest loans. These type of alternative funding mechanisms have helped to finance various projects that many of our residents enjoy today in the Village of Grafton. The finance team is essentially tasked with doing the most with the least. Internally, we value honesty, integrity and teamwork. There is a constant debate about funding "wants" versus "needs," and to the best of our ability we try to balance these as best as possible.

AN IMPORTANT CHANGE THAT OUR RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT: *RATE INCREASE TO THE RESIDENTS*



All residents should be made aware of the water fund rate increase that will be taking place next year. To put this increase into context please consider that Village officials did everything it could to minimize the impact on residents while also addressing a dire need facing the Village. A rate study was conducted by Council this past year, 2017. The water fund was drastically declining, to the extent that the cost was far outweighing the revenues to support the expense. Several recommendations were concluded by the study that ranged from addressing losses to dramatically increasing the rates on residents. Ultimately, Village leaders decided a few things: First, since 2012, despite the fact that the cost of purchasing water in bulk has increased, the Village adopted an approach to increase the rates 5% in 2018 with the commitment

to come back and re-examine how the increase is impacting residents in the latter part of the year. Secondly, the Village is investigating the leaks and losses in the current system. Residents will experience the rate increase in their January 2018 bills so please be on the lookout.



UTILITIES

At the Sewer Department, new controls have been installed, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the diffusers have been replaced. This has all been done with the intent to save money and reduce overall electricity costs. The Village is also seeking funding for another estimated \$1.3 Million in improvements.

Utilities Upgrades & Projects

Electric System

New conduits have been installed, new transformers, new transformer pads as part of this multi-phase project.

Vivian Drive Sub Station Line Shop

The Village has doubled the size of the facility while also performing engineering upgrades.

Village Wide LED Streetlight Program

LED Street light program is intended to upgrade the power supply feed, upgrade utility poles and transformers.

**These Utility Upgrades have all been done to improve the
Quality of Life in Grafton. See more on Page 5.**



UTILITIES- Continued

New 200,000-gallon Elevated Water Tower

Discussions have taken place about the water tower replacement dating back to 2012. Last year, the Village took an aggressive look for a new location, identified the site and acquired the land. Fortunately, the Village had secured funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission to help with the transition to the new location. Who benefits from the Grafton Water Tower? Everyone in the Village since this enhances the infrastructure and prepares for the future. The new Water Tower will be placed on Becker Court at the very North end of the Downtown District. The project bid was awarded in November 2017. Part of the project will be the decommissioning of the old tower, which dates back some 80 – 90 years. **Total project cost = \$1.6 million.**

New Water Pump Station

The pump station in town was part of the original water works plant and its reconstruction addresses a fundamental infrastructure concern in the Village. The Village is installing a modern pump station with emergency back-up, to ensure proper pressure is maintained to best serve the residents and businesses of the community. The new Pump Facility will feature two pumps, and will include modern telemetry and system communication.

Main Street Water Line Loop

Completion will connect southern water supply infrastructure from Becker Court and Main Street north to Erie Street with the water delivery infrastructure located in the northern Village customers. The loop will supply consistent balance to system pressurization, and allow localized system repairs without depressurizing entire sections of town. We do this to assure water quality, as well as the fire safety and welfare of the community. Measures like this are needed to maintain life, protect personal property, improve property values, prevent neighborhood decline and renew the pride we share in our residential neighborhoods. This project is scheduled to begin January/February 2018 and is planned to be completed before Memorial Day 2018.



PARKS AND RECREATION

Several important Parks and Recreation upgrades were made in 2017 that the Village would like to share with the residents. All of these have been done with the intent to enhance community pride and increase the experiences and opportunities of the residents.



The new Gazebo at Bicentennial Park for all to enjoy!

Built Gazebo at Bicentennial Park

Where once there was an empty lot at the SE corner of Mechanic and Main Street is now the home to a beautiful gazebo and Bicentennial Park. The entire construction of this re-purposed area of town was paid for with available cash and without taking on loans or outside funding. The Gazebo has quickly become home to many favorite picture spots, including wedding photos, school photos and family portraits, to the extent that a rental policy was put in place. Those interested in renting out the Gazebo at anytime can contact the Village of Grafton Village Hall for more information.

North Park

For family enjoyment, a new splash pad was installed so that our youngest generation can enjoy summer fun-in-the-sun and splash about. Playground enhancements have also been made so that children can have more enjoyable active time at the park. Also, the shade structure has become a favorite for Mom's and Dad's who are much more "cool" while watching their children play in the shade.



Grafton children play on the new amenities at North Park.



The Splash Park is a welcome addition for Grafton's youth!



POSITIVE & UPWARD MOMENTUM FOR VILLAGE OF GRAFTON!

Building Department Statistics demonstrate an upward trend for new construction of both residential and commercial establishments. See some of the information below!

SAFEUILT TECHNOLOGY

Improving Services for Everyone!

- Allowed the return of a Chief Building Official with continuation and familiarity to Grafton and Grafton's prior building department operations.
- Provided access to daytime building department personnel.
- Added online flexibility for contractor registration.
- Added flexibility for online payment of permits.
- Significantly reduced the time to schedule and perform inspections, from delays up to 1-week to often inspections within 24-hours of contractor call-in.
- CONTRACTOR and RESIDENT feedback has been overwhelmingly POSITIVE.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT'S POSITIVE STATS!



**2017
Permits
were up
from 123
in 2016 to
159 in 2017,
a 30%
increase in
permits.**



**Contractor
registrations
were up
from 106
in 2016 to
143 in 2017,
a 35%
increase.**



**NEW HOME STARTS
were even, 7 in 2016 and
again 7 in 2017. Fiddlers
Green Phase 2 will add
9 home sites, Phase 2
an estimated additional
60 home sites. Fox Run
Phase 5 adds 8 home
sites in 2017, Phase 6 is
under consideration.**



MAJOR ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Village of Grafton considers the completion of major roads and infrastructure projects as investments in our community's future. A number of roadways have been renovated and overhauled over the last several years, and though the temporary inconvenience of closing roads may cause angst, the long-term benefits are certainly abundant. Please see below the charts that will help you to understand the major infrastructure projects completed in the last year and those anticipated in the months to come.

Major Infrastructure Projects

Mechanic Street

\$1.2 Million (paid for by grants, low-interest loans and cash-on-hand)

Complete reconstruction of street, including water line replacement, sanitary sewer line, storm water, curb & gutter replacement and new sidewalks.

Nantucket Street & Nantucket Cul de Sac

Complete pavement replacement, base reinforcement and compaction improvements, storm water improvements, driveway apron replacement and catch basin replacement.

Chippewa Street

Complete pavement restoration with base reinforcement, driveway apron replacement, and compaction improvements.



MECHANIC STREET BEFORE



MECHANIC STREET AFTER



VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

"COMMUNITY LIFE... THROUGH PICTURES!"

LOOKING BACK ON OUR BICENTENNIAL



When these aspects of the operation of the Village of Grafton are taken together, it is the hope of Village leadership that our collective community life will be enhanced. Our goal is to make Grafton one of the finest places in which to live, work, visit and raise a family in all of Lorain County. From the addition of services, a revitalized downtown, events and new residential developments, we hope that you see the elevated importance the Village of Grafton places on community life.





Upcoming Village Events

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ FEBRUARY ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Council Meeting 7:30 PM	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 President's Day	20 Council Meeting 7:30 PM	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ MARCH ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Council Meeting 7:30 PM	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Saint Patrick's Day
18	19	20 Council Meeting 7:30 PM	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Good Friday	31

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ APRIL ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 Easter	2	3 Council Meeting 7:30 PM	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Council Meeting 7:30 PM	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



Charter Review Commission!

Grafton will be reviewing its Charter during 2018. Residents will see more information regarding the Charter Review Commission and its recommendations throughout the year.

Non-Emergency Contact Information

David DiVencenzo Mayor	(440) 926-2401 opt. 5 dmdivencenzo@villageofgraffton.org
Jason Strah Council at Large	jastrah@villageofgraffton.org
Matthew Dukles Ward 1	madukles@villageofgraffton.org
Elizabeth (Liz) Sauer Ward 2	easauer@villageofgraffton.org
John Lescher Ward 3	jflescher@villageofgraffton.org
Lynette Kitts Ward 4	lmkitts@villageofgraffton.org
Amy Barnhart Clerk-Treasurer	(440) 926-2401 opt. 3 arbarnhart@villageofgraffton.org
Joe Price Village Administrator	(440) 926-2401 opt. 4 jbprice@villageofgraffton.org
Lori Clark Village Secretary	(440) 926-2401 opt. 2 laclark@villageofgraffton.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