



# 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

Happy Spring! As the weather continues to improve, I hope you and your families find time to get outdoors and enjoy some fresh air. Grafton has had a wonderful start to its Bicentennial year, with local businesses, churches and community members all coming together to celebrate the Village. There are many more Bicentennial events to come, please continue to refer to the Calendar of Events located on the back page of this publication as well as the Village website at <http://villageofgrafton.org> for updates. With spring underway and summer right around the corner, we encourage all Village of Grafton residents to continue to bring your family and friends and join in the celebration of our amazing community and reflect on all the advances the Village of Grafton has accomplished over the past 200 years.

As mentioned, with the weather getting nicer by the day, the Village of Grafton has many parks to be enjoyed by our residents. Take your family to North Park for a picnic or Willow Park to play on the playground. Play a pick-up game of baseball at Reservoir Park or take a nice stroll through Water Tower Park. The Lorain County Metro Park Trails are also a great way to get outside and be active! The annual Fireman's Festival is almost here! Please see a full list of Festival details on page 3 of this publication. To continue, the Village of Grafton would like to congratulate Jessica Krug, Grafton's new fulltime officer to the Grafton Police Department. The entire village welcomes you and wishes you the best of luck. Also, new economic development projects and business opportunities are always in the works as we strive to make Grafton the top community in Lorain County. We encourage everyone to stay engaged

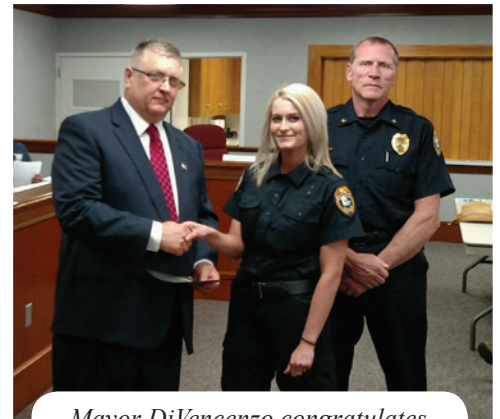
*(continued on page 3)*

## Memorial Day Parade:

The Village of Grafton's Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday, May 29th at 12 p.m. The parade line up starts in front of the Grafton Police Department and will set off from there. The parade will travel South to 5 points for the raising of the flag, then North along Main Street thru town.

Ceremonies in front of Village Hall will follow the parade festivities.

We hope to see you there!



*Mayor DiVencenzo congratulates new police officer Jessica Krug.*



*Students enjoying the nice weather at Grafton's North Park.*



*Brothers Chance and Clint Langkilde having a blast at Grafton's Willow Park.*

# June 12 - August 6

## 2017 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Summer Kick-Off - Saturday, June 10

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM - FREE BREAKFAST

Bring the entire family.

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Better World*  
and Community







*Village of Grafton Mayor David DiVencenzo*

## A Message from Mayor Dave DiVencenzo

*(continued from page 1)*

in what's to come for the Village by attending regular council meetings which are held the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

To close, I would like to express an abundance of gratitude to the residents of our community. Without you and the love of this Village we would not be where we are today. The Village administration and officials stay motivated to make Grafton the best it can be because of the shared love that is felt from all in this wonderful Village. I look forward to continuing to work hard in furthering the growth and success of the community. I hope to see everyone at the upcoming Fireman's Festival, as well as the many other Bicentennial events still to come. Let's keep making Grafton's 200th year the best one yet!

-Mayor Dave DiVencenzo



*Village of Grafton Fireworks*

## **Sponsor Grafton Fireworks!**

The Village is seeking corporate sponsorships for this year's annual collaborative Fireworks celebration. Please contact Joe Price, Village Administrator at [jbprice@villageofgrafton.org](mailto:jbprice@villageofgrafton.org) for more information.

## Business Feature: Check Please Café

Check Please Café is a new restaurant in the Village of Grafton owned and operated by Tara and Mike Vruvas. Though Check Please is one of the many wonderful restaurants in the Grafton area, what really sets it apart from the other establishments is that fresh, clean, food with no preservatives is what every customer receives. This concept of simple, clean food can be expected without compromise in everything served at Check Please. These values are important to Tara and her family as she gives and feeds her customers what she would feed her very own family and friends.

The evolution of Check Please Café came from a conversation Tara had with her husband Mike. She wanted to own a business that incorporated her love of simple, fresh food. Tara's hope is for Check Please to be a place where families can come and eat without having to question or wonder what quality of food they are receiving. Being new to managing a restaurant, Tara wholeheartedly believes that with a good product and good service, anything can be successful. The name Check Please stems from the layout of the menu, a simple design that allows patrons to check what they want and personalize their meal with the best ingredients. Check Please has given Tara and her family the opportunity to connect with the Grafton community as well as make friendships on a personal and professional level. Many local suppliers are used to provide Check Please with its products and ingredients, including Hartzler's Family Dairy, Red Cedar Coffee Company, Keller Meats and Cowhaus Creamery. Tara has also taken the opportunity to partner with other local business owners like Grammie's Primitive Treasures by Cheryl Wacker whose décor fills the walls of Check Please and is available for customers to purchase.

Check Please just opened, and already some crowd favorites so far have been the Breakfast Scramble topped with eggs, sausage gravy, home fries and cheese, omelets from scratch as well as the Gyro and Rueben sandwiches accompanied with homemade dressings. The Check Please Café welcomes everyone to stop in and enjoy a great breakfast or lunch. Hours of operation include Monday through Saturday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. To see daily updates please go to the Check Please Café Facebook page. The entire Check Please Café staff thanks everyone for all the support thus far and looks forward to serving the best to the entire Village of Grafton and surrounding communities.



*Come enjoy the great food and service at Check Please Café.*



*Check Please Café owner Tara Vruvas (left) and her sister, Laura Jakus (right)*



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# Customer Appreciation Day

**May 20, 2017 10:00a-2:00p**

- Free Food starting at 11:00-Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips & drinks (While supplies last)
- Great Prizes!
- One Day Only Savings!

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## Top Soil **\$1.99** 40#



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# Council Commentary

With Councilman-at-large Jason Strah

*Making the best with limited resources...*

The life of a councilman often takes on many layers of responsibility, one of which is expectation of the unexpected to happen at any given moment. Last Fall a late-night phone call from Grafton Police Chief Dan Clark provided one such moment. When the phone rings and my caller ID display's "CHIEF CLARK," the immediate mindset of urgency becomes 'what's happened' prompting a call from the chief this time of the night.

For those who know Chief Dan Clark and appreciate all he and his department does for the Village of Grafton, the Chief is one who gets directly to the point. Dan spoke about a concern and wanted to discuss ways he believed the Grafton Police Department could better serve our residents. The discussion was less about common police related operations. His concern was how the village could improve medical emergency response times. When a medical emergency occurs, the police are the first to arrive. As they often do, they assess the emergency and await medical emergency response personnel. Medical response is often on-scene minutes later. For the individual suffering the medical emergency, minutes can feel like an eternity.

Dan said, "We, the officers on the scene, wish there is more we could do." Even before this call, Chief Clark was instrumental in requesting AED's in every squad car, something that has already proven to be a life-saver for some here in Grafton. Given my background in firefighting and as an EMT, Dan asked me, "Can we do more?" We agreed to think about this, toss around ideas, and set a date two weeks later to discuss possible solutions.

Sharing this conversation with other EMT professionals, several suggested developing and sponsoring a 'First Responder Class' for Police. Dan and I discussed this and we agreed to reach out to Tina at the Life Care Training Academy. The Chief and I managed the cost of this academy into his annual budget by volunteering his time and mine to teach the course along with Tina, significantly lowering

the overall cost to the village.

The wonderful thing about worthwhile community programs, it attracts equally wonderful members of the community to join efforts in making our village a better place. Hearing about this class and the overall ways it will benefit Grafton, village resident Kathy Justy, a Life Care Instructor, contacted me and volunteered

her time to help teach the class. The Justy family is not new to community volunteerism, Kathy's husband Paul, is a long-serving member of the Grafton Planning Commission. Kathy, on behalf of your hometown village, we thank you for all you have done to ensure the

success of this class and the benefits it brings to the village. In all, Dan, Kathy and I spent every Wednesday night for over 5-months to hold the qualifying hours of the course.

Dan offered this class to members of our police force as a volunteer program. Needless to say, the overall participation and enthusiasm was outstanding. In addition to Chief Clark, volunteering their Wednesday nights were Grafton Sergeant Ken Jake, Patrolman Scott Kilgore, Patrolman Dan Janik, Patrolman Jesse Bynum, and Patrolman Jessica King. Their dedication to the village is second to none.

THANK YOU does not express the gratitude I have towards all the participants. They are what makes Grafton the great village it is, and from their individual efforts, the Village of Grafton has 6 additional qualified Emergency Medical Responders serving those in a time of need.

Jason Strah – Grafton Councilman at Large



Councilman Jason Strah

## 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?

Though the Village was founded in 1817,  
the name Grafton was not incorporated  
until 1877.



Village Administrator,  
Joe Price

## Services Update

Joe Price, Village Administrator

**Making greater Grafton  
even GREATER!**

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

*By: Joe Price – Village Administrator*

Sustainable clean water supply is a necessity for all life on Earth. Here in Grafton, much has been invested and maintained to assure constant delivery of water to all the homes and businesses we serve.

Although the Village of Grafton stopped processing water internally in the 1990's, the village found it financially beneficial to outsource water supply from the Rural Water Authority. Outsourcing water supply reduced rising operational costs, concerns regarding long-term water volume requirements and eased EPA

operational licensing and production requirements including some related regulations, placing several of the same requirements under the umbrella of services provided by the Rural Water Authority. The immediate and long-term benefit assured all residents and businesses an affordable water supply with a stability in cost.

Over the past 4-years, Rural water has increased the cost of water to the Village while we remained steadfast in our commitment to provide water at the lowest cost possible to our residents. Recently, Rural Water announced another rate increase. As the Village absorbed past rate increases, the water fund has been reduced to a point that concerns Village administration. Council and the Mayor has authorized the commission of a Water Rate Study that will fairly address all costs to purchase water, service and improve water supply infrastructure while maintaining the funding needed to pay on existing water fund related debt.

Receiving water is the first of several steps related in delivering water to every customer. The Village has a network of supply conduit, elevated water storage, directional valve controls and pump facilities to assure constant supply of water. Costs to maintain the delivery systems are a portion of the price we all pay for water. As

## ATTENTION TO DETAIL

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## Happy Bicentennial! Village of Grafton



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## Services Update

(continued from page 5)

the Village has absorbed the rate increases in recent years, the fund balances for on-going maintenance and improvements have declined. The rate study will include an assessment of the current wholesale cost of water, the cost to maintain and improve the water supply system and assure the Village of its ability to meet the necessary funding to repay existing and future liabilities.

Recent improvements to your water system include new water main replacement on all of Mechanic Street, additional valve controls for Center Street, and the replacement of several fire hydrants. Soon, we plan to go-out-to-bid the same for Oak Street and are looking to plan and fund hydrant replacement in the downtown district soon.

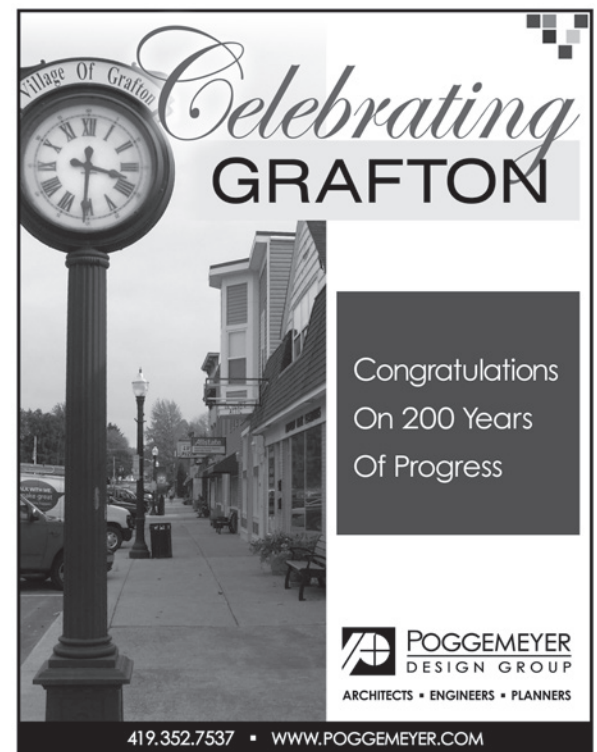
One of the improvements you will soon see is the construction of a new elevated water tank in the downtown district on Becker Court near Main Street. The longstanding water tower has served the Village well for the better part of the past century. The 100,000-gallon water tower will be removed shortly after the new 200,00-gallon water tower is constructed. Completion is expected sometime in early 2018. Additionally, the booster pump facility at the old water works will be replaced with a new pump facility which will include a second back-up pump and emergency power generation for all the pumps. When completed, the former water works buildings will be removed and the land restored for Willow Park use.

Finally, later this year we will begin the process of boring under the CSX tracks in the downtown district to address concerns of aged infrastructure that currently supplies water to the Northern commercial district here in Grafton.

Although the Village no longer produces the water we drink, all other very necessary services remain that are provided to maintain and assure everyone the delivery of needed water. From the water we drink, to the water we use in a variety of ways, we work daily to assure not only supply but the volume and pressure needed to deliver clean water to you, to our business partners, safety systems and fire hydrants whenever there is an instant demand for water.

I hope you have found this information insightful as to how your public services benefit everyone in the Village of Grafton. My office is always available for your comments and concerns. The third part of this series will address streets and parks, look for it in the August 2017 edition of the Village Spotlight.

– Joe Price



## Fireman's Festival Information/Events Calendar:

### **Friday, May 26th 6-11 p.m.**

**Bingo:** 6-11 p.m.

**Instant Bingo, Texas Hold'em, Poker, Blackjack:** 6-11 p.m.

**Beer Garden:** 6-11 p.m.

**Movie Under the Stars:** 9 p.m. (Bring Blankets/Chairs)

### **Saturday, May 27th 12-11 p.m.**

**Children's Matinee:** 12-5 p.m. (includes water fight, Fire Safety House, and bike raffle)

**Bingo:** 12-5 p.m. and 6-11 p.m.

**Beer Garden:** 12-5 p.m.

**Instant Bingo, Texas Hold'em, Poker, Blackjack:** 6-11 p.m.

**Bluegrass Band:** 7:15-9:15 p.m.

**FIREWORKS – located at Willow Park: 10 p.m. (Rain Date Sunday, May 28th) \*Parking available at Reservoir Park**

### **Sunday, May 28th 12-11 p.m.**

**Fireman's Water Fight:** 1 p.m.

**Cruise In:** 3-5 p.m. at Willow Park

**Bingo:** 4-9 p.m.

**Beer Garden:** 12-11 p.m.

**Instant Bingo, Texas Hold'em, Poker, Blackjack:** 3-11 p.m.

**Midview Jazz Band:** 4 p.m.

**Movie Under the Stars:** 7 p.m. (Bring Blankets/Chairs)

### **Monday, May 29th 1-8 p.m.**

**Children's Matinee:** 1-8 p.m. (includes Fire Safety House and Bike Raffle)

**Bingo:** 3-8 p.m.

**Instant Bingo, Texas Hold'em, Poker, Blackjack:** 3-8 p.m.



*Community members enjoying the Village of Grafton's Fireman's Festival Activities.*

### **Grafton Fireman's Festival-Cruise In 2017**

Grafton's Fireman's Festival Cruise In is on Sunday, May 28th from 3-5 p.m. at Willow Park on State Route 57 in Grafton, OH. Classic Cars, Trucks and Bikes are all welcome! The Cruise In is free admission with grass parking available. The Cruise In is set to happen rain or shine with music and entertainment provided by "It's Showtime" with D.J. Dave. Dash Plaques will also be available as well as a Chinese Raffle. Don't miss out on being a part of this fun event! For more information contact Larry or Jeanne at 440-926-2075.





# Upcoming Village Events

## JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Fireman's Festival Weekend, Willow Park 1 p.m. - 11 p.m.	Memorial Day VFW Memorial Day Parade 12 p.m.	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6 7:30 pm Council Meeting	7 Brush Pick Up	8	9	10 Trash-to-Treasure Village Wide Garage Sale 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
11	12	13	14 Flag Day Brush Pick Up "Heritage Trail," Library 6 p.m.	15	16	17
18 Father's Day Gazebo Dedication, Mechanic/Main Street 3 p.m. Patriot Band Concert, Willow Park 4 p.m.	19	20 7:30pm Council Meeting TBA Planning/Zoning Commission Meeting	21 Brush Pick Up	22	23	24 Police Dept. Open House, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
25	26	27	28 Brush Pick Up	29	30	

## JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 Bicentennial Day 5K Walk, TBA Main Street Party, 4 p.m. Parade, 6:30 p.m. "Party in the Park", 7 p.m. Fireworks, 10:00 p.m.
2	3	4 Independence Day Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m.	5 Brush Pick Up	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 "Heritage Trail," Library 6 p.m. Brush Pick Up	13	14	15
16	17	18 Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Planning/Zoning Commission Meeting, TBA	19 Brush Pick Up	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Brush Pick Up	27	28	29
30	31					

## AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 7:30pm Council Meeting	2 Brush Pick Up	3	4 Our Lady Queen of Peace Festival, Erie Street	5 Our Lady Queen of Peace Festival, Erie Street
6 Our Lady Queen of Peace Festival, Erie Street	7	8	9 "Heritage Trail," Library 6 p.m. Brush Pick Up	10	11	12
13	14	15 7:30pm Council Meeting TBA Planning/Zoning Commission Meeting	16 Brush Pick Up	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Brush Pick Up	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Brush Pick Up	31		



960 Main Street  
Grafton, Ohio 44044

### Non-Emergency Contact Information

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