



# 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 David DiVencenzo

### Village of Grafton: No Finer Place to Live, Work, Visit and Raise a Family

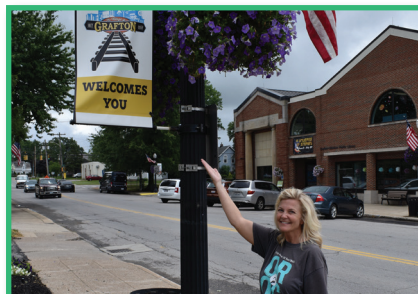


*Village of Grafton  
Mayor David DiVencenzo*

There may be no finer place in all of Ohio to live, work, visit and raise a family than in beautiful Grafton, Ohio... the Beacon of Lorain County and a shining light to all who live and work here. As the "dog-days" of summer are upon us, families are enjoying their final restful moments of the Summer of 2019, in preparation for the busy autumn season. Vacations were taken, a little extra yardwork was performed and summer cookouts or picnics brought family and friends together in hometown style.

Throughout the summer, I took great pride in visiting the various activities that took place in our wonderful and re-emerging parks and recreation scene. These are truly among the crown jewels of the community, as the parks have something for everyone. This edition of the Village Pride newsletter showcases some of the upgrades that are taking place in the parks, including refurbished playground equipment, enhanced community amenities such as renovations to the rooms at North Park or additions such as the shade structure and new stage area at Willow Park. Renovations to the pavilion and restrooms at North Park and the addition of new swings are all part of the growing list of projects. Please take a moment to visit our Parks and Recreation locations throughout Grafton. They are fun, relaxing and a great place for families to bond.

One such event that took place in our parks this summer was nothing short of spectacular. Citizens from here and abroad packed Willow Park, and even overflowed into Reservoir Park to watch the patriotic display of lights, fireworks and colorful displays. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the partners, vendors and patrons who helped to underwrite the cost of the



*The new banners have added a  
welcoming spirit to the Village!*



*Grafton is becoming an increasingly walk-able, and  
"bike-able" community for all ages!*

fireworks this year. A complete list of these individuals and entities are found inside this publication.

Residents have also undoubtedly witnessed the major overhauls taking place to the infrastructure within the community. These upgrades are taking place for you! We want to have long-term capital assets for today, but also for your kids and grandkids as well. A byproduct of investing in our streets and sidewalks is the creation of a safer, more walkable community. Village officials encourage you to get out, walk around town, down the recently refurbished and enhanced streets. You will experience part of our T.L.C.I. initiative firsthand to connect various parts of town.

Finally, please allow me to re-express my gratitude for serving as your Mayor. In being the leader of the community in which I've lived for many years, I am deeply honored. Thank you for your continued support of the Village of Grafton. School will be back in session soon. Please drive safe!

Regards,  
Mayor David DiVencenzo

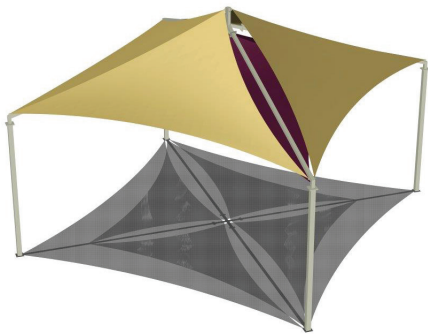


## Exciting Upgrades and Family-Friendly Enhancements at Willow Park!

To help promote more community engagement and support, while attracting people to come together and enjoy Village camaraderie, the administration is planning a number of new amenities for Willow Park. First and foremost, a new **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessible playground** will be installed that will feature swings, slides, climbable structures and other fun obstacles to bring young children and their families together. Next, a concert stage venue and shade structure will be constructed at Willow Park so that local bands can entertain concert goers, fans and other residents who wish to enjoy some summer-fun while listening to local acts and bands. A shade structure will be incorporated to the footprint of the concert area, to provide needed relief in the sweltering summer heat, once again promoting outdoor activity and togetherness. See the nearby renderings for this as well. Funding for the Willow Park amenities is coming from the deliberate effort of Village administrators to identify external agencies who align with the exciting vision we have for our Community, including from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources NatureWorks grant. Stay tuned for more updates with regard to the upgrades!



*Willow Park will be home to a new playground in the very near future, helping to promote family togetherness and a point-of-gathering for the entire community!*



*Best of all, the new playground will be ADA Accessible, so that people of all abilities can enjoy this wonderful, new amenity.*

## Calling All Volunteers!! Come Help with COMMUNITY BUILD at Willow Park!

Come one and come all, to the Village of Grafton "Community Build," which will take place on Wednesday, September 25th and run through Saturday, September 28, 2019. The "Community Build" will be your opportunity to help assemble the new ADA compliant playground that will be placed at Willow Park. Resident volunteers will work hand-in-hand, working with experts and those familiar with the design of the playground. Contact Joe Price today at [jbprice@villageofgrafton.org](mailto:jbprice@villageofgrafton.org) today, to learn more about the "Community Build!"

## New Equipment for Village Police and Fire Will Make Residents More Safe

The recent purchase of various important resources for the Village Police and Fire Department are certain to help enhance the service both entities are able to provide, **and will help keep residents more safe and secure**. In the Police Department, two new police cruisers were purchased to create even more street visibility and presence. These all-wheel-drive vehicles, will also be equipped with the latest technology for police officer convenience and will replace two vehicles that will be recycled out of the fleet. Funding for these police cruisers came from a variety of sources, as part of the Village's continual review of identifying external funding. In addition, the Village Fire Department also recently provided its team with 14 sets of new turnout gear, to better protect the lives of our Village's finest. The new turnout gear is lighter in weight and more comfortable for users. The Village of Grafton Fireman's Association graciously provided 50% of the funding for the total cost. In addition, Chief Thompson also recently stated the desire to have a Phase II turnout gear purchase next year, as a backup set. The turnout gear is comprised of flame retardant material to protect hands, legs, arms and feet.



*The recent purchase of two new police cruisers and turnout gear will go a long way to keep the community safe and secure. Thank you to everyone for their continued support of our Village's public safety forces.*

## Becker Court Sidewalks Make Community More Walkable! TLCI Implementation Underway!

Residents, patrons and business owners in downtown Grafton and beyond are currently benefitting from the recent installation of 5-foot wide sidewalks on Becker Court. A majority of these new sidewalks are “extra-wide” and pedestrian-friendly, and essentially connect Center Street to Main Street creating one walkable loop for the first time in Village history. Enthusiasts can essentially “walk around the block.” The funding for these new sidewalks comes from the Village leadership’s effort to identify funding sources with the help of the Ohio Public Works Council since the T.L.C.I. initiative will help to improve walkability, connectivity and the overall spirit and well-being of the community.



*The new sidewalks on Becker Court implement the recommendations made in the TLCI Report, and connect Center Street with Main Street for the first time in the community’s history!*

## Solar Infrastructure Project Nearing Completion...Generating Natural Energy...and Lots of Excitement!



*The Village of Grafton will be home to a future solar operation that will produce benefits for generations to come!*

The much-anticipated Grafton solar development (Project Beacon) is nearing the final phase of construction. The 35-acre site hosting 4MW of solar electric generation experienced additional requirements and revised electrical-grid compliance standards added to engineered design.

As solar projects are being built in Ohio and many more being proposed, the electric grid has mounting concerns regarding system overload. The new compliance standards have evolved to include infrastructure that curtails power generation and added switching that disconnects the generation facility completely from Grafton’s grid to prevent Grafton’s generation from being reversed metered back into the PJM grid Grafton is normally supplied by.

Structurally the solar field is complete, panels are being installed and if all goes as planned, construction is complete, and all systems test and are approved for daily operations, Grafton electrical customers can expect to begin receiving solar

generated renewable energy delivered to their homes and businesses by November 2019.

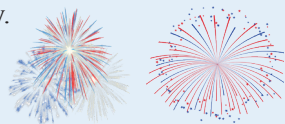
This exciting project is one all of Grafton can be proud of. We believe this will be the largest single site solar facility in a multi-county region, possibly the largest in Northeast Ohio... and we’ve only just begun.

Stay tuned for more to come in future editions of the Grafton Village Spotlight!

~ Joe Price - Village Administrator

## Fireworks display DAZZLE thousands of onlookers to celebrate our Nation’s Birthday.

Thank you to everyone who turned out for the fireworks display that was held on July 5, 2019. The evening was a patriotic display of fireworks to commemorate our nation’s birthday. Many people congregated from all over the community to share their national spirit, and in doing so, helped to swell the pride the community has in itself. There were a number of individuals and corporate entities who helped to make this fireworks display possible, who donated their resources or their time and effort to permit this event to take place. Thank you to the nearby individuals and corporate entities for their participation and partnership in this display.



*Grafton residents packed Willow Park and nearby Reservoir Park to watch a spectacular fireworks display to celebrate America’s birthday!*



# A SPECIAL THANK YOU GOES OUT TO THE PARTNERS BELOW WHO HELPED MAKE THIS YEAR'S FIREWORKS POSSIBLE!

## **PLATINUM**

The Jailhouse Tavern, LLC  
Ryan Homes

## **GOLD**

Eaton Fabricating Co., Inc.

## **SILVER**

Joe Price  
Poggemeyer Design Group, Inc.  
Quality Control Inspection

## **BRONZE**

West Roofing Systems, Inc.  
Dave Divencenzo  
GPD Group  
General Plug & Mfg.  
Shama Express LLC  
Willis CNC  
Denes Concrete, Inc.  
Shamrock Bldg Co.  
GLW Broadband, Inc.  
Gretchen Holderman  
VFW Post 3341  
Old Republic Title  
Grafton Mower Service  
Eitri Foundry LLC  
Economy Door  
Grafton Metal Finishing  
Sherman & Sons Lawn Care  
Jim & Amy Barnhart  
Grafton Metal Finishing  
Sammon Fence Co.  
Carlee Mahajan  
Unicorn Restaurant  
Tim & Darla Strah  
Large Family  
Brian & Brenda Logan  
Steven & Theresa Zeise  
Coffman Fashion Eyewear  
Christopher & Julie Smith  
Vasu Communications  
Dan & Barbara Spencer  
Bobby & Diana Burgess  
Carol Strouse  
Georgette & Mark Mihaljevic  
Richard & Susan Smith  
Anna & George Burke  
Regina Bell  
Clete & Lois Johnson  
Jeff & Linda Bales  
Ken Hamm  
Laverne Sefcovic


Sam Arnold  
Tim & Ruth Shroyer  
Edward & Judith Fedako  
Barbara & Russell Kakos  
Richard & Deborah McClain  
Mike Petry  
Pat Tomko





**POGGEMEYER**  
DESIGN GROUP

*Celebrating*  
**50** Years of  
Designing  
Solutions



419.352.7537 • WWW.POGGEMEYER.COM ENGINEERS • ARCHITECTS • PLANNERS

**Village "Buying Gold"**  
Jewelry & Repair  
Products:

*Offering 12 Months Financing*

**Services**

- Jewelry Repairs
- Jewelry Appraisals Engraving
- Clock & Watch Repairs

**The Kuhn's Family**



**Downtown Grafton**  
954 Main St.  
Grafton, OH 44044  
(440) 926-0500



[www.villagejewelryandrepair.com](http://www.villagejewelryandrepair.com)



**PRIVATE SECURITY**  
DIV. of KLINECT TV LLC.  
**Matthew A. Dukles**  
SALES~SERVICE~INSPECTIONS

891 Main St.  
Grafton Oh. 44044

24/7 Fire & Burglary Monitoring Services  
Commercial & Residential  
Security-Fire-CCTV-Sound-Telephone Systems

440-926-2419  
[ademcomatt@klinecttv.com](mailto:ademcomatt@klinecttv.com)

[www.privatesecurityalarms.com](http://www.privatesecurityalarms.com)



**Kazmierczak**  
**CONSTRUCTION, LLC.**  
BUILDING DREAMS

Remodeling • Additions • Barns • Garages • Decks • Siding  
Windows • Doors • Creative Concrete • Concrete  
Foundations • Custom Homes

**Josh Kazmierczak**  
[josh@kazmierczakconstruction.com](mailto:josh@kazmierczakconstruction.com)  
44421 Jones Road, Wellington, Ohio 44090

**440-225-6024**  
[www.kazmierczakconstruction.com](http://www.kazmierczakconstruction.com)

**440-355-4616**

**KEYSTONE POINTE-EXCELLENCE IN POST  
HOSPITAL AND REHABILITATION CARE**

- SUPERIOR OUTCOMES
- LARGE PRIVATE ROOMS
- HIGHLY RATED BY MEDICARE



**KEYSTONE POINTE**  
Health and Rehabilitation  
383 Opportunity Drive, Lagrange, Ohio



# SAVE THE DATE!

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE



DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

IN HONOR OF

**GRAFTON-MIDVIEW  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

*Proudly serving our community since 1944.*

**SUNDAY  
OCTOBER  
13TH**

1 PM to 4 PM

**GRAFTON-MIDVIEW  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
983 Main Street  
GRAFTON, OH

Join us as we celebrate our 75th Anniversary!  
Enjoy plenty of wonderful activities for the entire  
family at our Open House.

*Grafton-Midview Public Library's  
75th Diamond Anniversary:  
Get "engaged" at your Library.*

**GRAFTON-MIDVIEW  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
*OPENING YOUR WINDOW TO THE WORLD.*





# Investing in Our Future!

## Village of Grafton Infrastructure Project Update

In the last edition, the Village updated the community on a number of infrastructure projects underway. Please see below to learn about even more updates on these projects and some new ones as well!

- Oak and Chestnut Phase I should have the paving installed with a few minor items to be completed.
- The equipment for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements has been ordered and should be installed by the end of the year.
- Chestnut Phase II- construction plans are in the process of being engineered with a bid date proposed for late fall.
- The North Water Tower Rehab project- construction plans are being finalized with a bid date in late summer or fall.
- Applied for NatureWorks funding for improvements to the North Park pavilion and restrooms, the construction of a new pavilion and new swings and other all-inclusive playground structures.
- Applied for CDBG funding for new parking lot on the corner of Main Street and Becker Court.
- Applied for CDBG funding for improvements to make ADA accessible restrooms at the Community Room in North Park.
- Working on plans for improvements to State Route 57 from Erie Street to Mechanic Street as part of the TLCI Shared Vision Plan.

*These projects will benefit future generations of Village of Grafton residents and businesses!*  
*Thanks for your continued support!*



Grafton • 717 Erie St. • 440-926-2281

## End of Summer Savings

Purina & Centerra  
50# Wild Bird  
Feed

**\$1.00 off**

Not valid with any other discounts. In stock only. Restrictions may apply.



Propane 20# Grill  
Tank Refills  
**\$9.00**

Not valid with any other discounts. In stock only. Restrictions may apply.



Honor Show Chow  
Show Supplements  
**10% off**

Not valid with any other discounts. In stock only. Restrictions may apply.



Pet Toys  
**25% off**

Not valid with any other discounts. In stock only. Restrictions may apply.



Extra Punch on your  
Frequent Buyer Card  
Nature's Blend Value,  
Deluxe & Gourmet Mixes

Not valid with any other discounts. In stock only. Restrictions may apply.



All Dog & Cat Food  
**10% off**

Not valid with any other discounts. In stock only. Restrictions may apply.



[www.VillageofGrafton.com](http://www.VillageofGrafton.com)





# Upcoming Village Events



## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ SEPTEMBER ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2 Labor Day	3 Friends of GMPL Meeting 6:30 PM Council Meeting 7:30 PM	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Midview Kiwanis Noon at Village Hall	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Council Meeting 7:30 PM	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Midview Kiwanis Noon at Village Hall	25 Midview Schools BOE 6:30 PM Community Build Willow Park	26 Community Build Willow Park	27 Community Build Willow Park	28 Community Build Willow Park
29	30					

## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ OCTOBER ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 Friends of GMPL Meeting 6:30 PM Council Meeting 7:30 PM	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Midview Kiwanis Noon at Village Hall	9	10	11 Midview HS Homecoming Game 7:30 PM	12
13 GMPL 75th Anniversary Celebration 1:00-4:00 PM	14 Columbus Day	15 Friends of GMPL Meeting 6:30 PM Council Meeting 7:30 PM	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Midview Kiwanis Noon at Village Hall	23 Midview Schools BOE 6:30 PM	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween		

## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ NOVEMBER ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5 Friends of GMPL Meeting 6:30 PM Council Meeting 7:30 PM	6	7	8	9
10	11 Veterans Day	12 Midview Kiwanis Noon at Village Hall	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Council Meeting 7:30 PM	20 Midview Schools BOE 6:30 PM	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30

## Non-Emergency Contact Information

**David DiVencenzo** (440) 926-2401 opt. 5  
Mayor dmdivencenzo@villageofgrafton.org

**Tim Strah**  
Council at Large Timstrah@villageofgrafton.org

**Matthew Dukles**  
Ward 1 madukles@villageofgrafton.org

**Elizabeth (Liz) Sauer**  
Ward 2 easauer@villageofgrafton.org

**Rick Logue**  
Ward 3 rlogue@villageofgrafton.org

**Lynette Kitts**  
Ward 4 lmkits@villageofgrafton.org

**Amy Barnhart** (440) 926-2401 opt. 3  
Clerk-Treasurer arbarnhart@villageofgrafton.org

**Joe Price** (440) 926-2401 opt. 4  
Village Administrator jbprice@villageofgrafton.org

**Diane Kazmierczak** (440) 926-2401 opt. 2  
Village Secretary djkazmierczak@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