



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



Mayor Dave DiVencenzo addresses an audience of 80 participants in the Flip the Switch event held to kick off Project Beacon

The bright sunshine and warmer temperatures of 2019 have come and gone, the Holiday season is fast approaching and there can be no finer place to live in all of Northeast Ohio than the Village of Grafton, the Beacon of Lorain County. Cooler temperatures do little to slow the vibrant pace of Village life in our wonderful community, and I thank each and every resident for their prideful contributions in making Grafton the place it is today. Our friends at the Grafton Midview Public Library celebrated an incredible milestone recently, and we collectively wish them a Happy 75th Anniversary. Throughout this publication,

residents and business owners will read updates about a community on the move. From attracting cutting edge solar energy opportunities to town, to helping our local shops and small enterprises, Grafton is open for business. Our loyal and dedicated residents are coming together to thoughtfully help position our Village for future successes.

Flip the Switch on Project Beacon

Thank you to everyone who attended the Flip the Switch event on Saturday, November 16, 2019 to celebrate the arrival of our partners Safari Energy for our solar project. This project represents the culmination of a great deal of preparatory work, and the threshold of a great sequence of economic and energy opportunities for the Village. Stay tuned for more information soon!



Mayor DiVencenzo, Council members, Joe Price, Members from Eitri Foundry and Safari Energy just after "flipping the switch" and ribbon cutting

Thank you to our Dedicated Residents for your Volunteerism!

The residents of our community deserve a word of gratitude, as between 80 and 100 individuals came out for the Community Build Day in September, to help assemble the areas in Willow Park with new amenities for future generations. In addition, a small group of people have convened to help

with the process of updating the Village of Grafton's Master Plan, adding detailed input and wisdom into a plan that will serve as the community's guiding document for the next generation. It's the time and energy from our loyal citizens who help make this community so special.

Connecting the Village...One Opportunity at a Time

Readers will also learn about the continued progress being made to further "connect" the Village through various capital improvement and wayfinding enhancements. Be sure to see that article inside this newsletter. Big things are being planned to encourage people to get out, walk around and view the wonderful Village we have one footstep at a time. The Village would also like to thank the various public entities that have been involved or will be involved in helping to fund some of the upgrades and enhancements. The Ohio Public Works Commission, the Ohio Department of Transportation and other entities have all been enlisted for their funding considerations. Thank you in advance for your efforts.



Lorain County Commissioner Sharon Sweda presents Mayor DiVencenzo with a proclamation during the Flip the Switch event

Finally, on behalf of everyone at the Village of Grafton, please have a safe and enjoyable holiday season. Your dedication makes living in our community so very special.

Happy Holidays to you all!

Mayor David DiVencenzo

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Willow Park Community Build Promotes Village Pride



The Village of Grafton thanks the nearly 100 volunteers who invested their time, energy and efforts on September 25th through September 28th to build a playground structure for children of all ages and abilities at Willow Park. With the help of representatives from Miracle Midwest Recreation, the supplier of the playground structure, Village employees and administration, along with volunteers from the General Motors Salaried employees, Boy Scout Troop 152, Midview National Honor Society and other dedicated individuals installed a new approximately 6,500 square foot play structure. Specifically, volunteers dug holes for post footers, mixed concrete, put together the framework for the playground and more. The finished product includes the ADA-compliant playground and sun-shade structure over the stage. Community pride and collaboration was on full display!

The Village would like to thank everyone involved for their support for this project. Besides the time volunteered by many individuals, Marco's Pizza donated lunch one day and McDonalds donated cookies to the volunteers. Thank you one and all for helping to continue make the Village of Grafton "A Place You Can Call Home."



Thank you to the volunteers who support our Community Build, September 25- 28th!



Boy Scouts, National Honor Society, GM salaried employees, Village employees and more built our new ADA compliant Playground.

TLCI Plan Marches Forward, Helping to "Connect our Community!"

The Village of Grafton's Transportation for Livable Communities (T.L.C.I.) plan continues to be implemented, with the expressed purpose of further connecting areas in town. Most visibly for the public, State Route 57 from Erie Street to Mechanic Street will be experiencing enhancements to sidewalks, curb and gutter replacements, crosswalks, bump-up installation. Here, the Village hopes to continue promoting walkability through the community's main corridors. As part of the TLCI Plan, the Village will also be realigning Parsons Road Intersection. Residents will be noticing the addition of new **wayfinding signage** which simply informs citizens of various areas of town, and how best to reach that destination. The Village will make efforts to calm traffic and improve safety. An entirely new parking scheme is being discussed right now as well, so that how motorists travel and park is properly considered. Implementing this T.L.C.I. Plan permit requires funding, and the Village is in the process of applying to the Ohio Public Works Commission through NOACA. We are also working with the Ohio Department of Transportation for assistance with the project from Mechanic Street to the Corp Limit in 2022. The long-term goal is that the promotion of connectivity sparks reinvestment in Downtown Grafton and stimulates economic development.




Wayfinding and enhanced signage will help people arrive to their destinations in Grafton.



The Village hopes to promote walkability, bike-ability and general connectivity.

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Citizen-Based Steering Committee Formed to Review Comprehensive Plan



Thank you to the participants of our Steering Committee for the Master Plan Revision.

The Village of Grafton is beginning the exciting process of updating our 1990 Comprehensive Plan. The Village has entered into a contract with Poggemeyer Design Group, Inc., a planning consultant, and appointed a 20-person Steering Committee to guide the process. A four-phased approach will be followed and includes discovery, collaborative/visioning, plan development, and public review/final adoption. The Village recently adopted a TLCI Shared Vision Plan- Envision Grafton-Smart Growth Through Transportation, and is building on information and concepts established in that Plan to update the Comprehensive Plan. The Village will be looking at residential, commercial, and industrial land uses as well as utilities, parks/green space, future land uses and zoning recommendations. We will also focus on economic development and downtown redevelopment with this planning process.

This effort builds upon the completion of Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) Plan to look at ways to best increase public access and enjoyment of all Village resources by linking existing commercial, recreational, historic, and natural areas. We will incorporate recommendations from the TLCI Shared Vision Plan into the Comprehensive Plan, take a more in-depth review of the projected growth within the Village and discuss concepts for future economic development within the Village.

The Steering Committee has met to begin the update process. There will be a number of opportunities for public participation, including a public visioning event, a citizen survey, three plan development workshops and a public approval forum. Please mark your calendars for the first public participation event, a Visioning Meeting on Saturday, January 18th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the Community Room in North Park. Refreshments will be provided. Please plan to attend and be part of setting the vision for the future of the Village of Grafton, "A Place You Can Call Home."



Residents shared ideas and posted them on white boards for added collaboration.

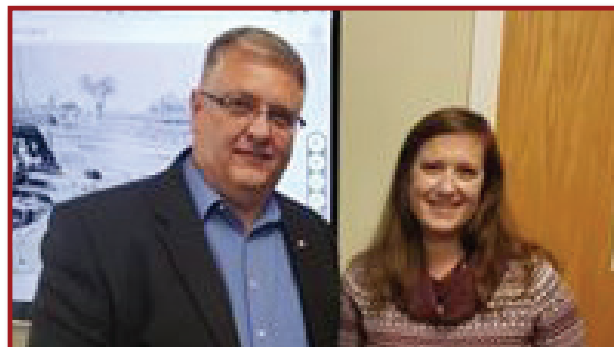


A spirited and thoughtful discussion took place on October 29 at the first Steering Committee Meeting.

Congratulations to Grafton-Midview Library on 75th Anniversary



On behalf of the Village of Grafton, everyone in our community would like to congratulate and honor the Grafton-Midview Public Library for proudly being an anchor resource in our community for 75 years. A proclamation was delivered by Mayor DiVencenzo on the day of their celebration, Sunday, October 13, 2019, which took place at the Library. The “Diamond Anniversary” celebration included face-painting for youngsters, a reptile and amphibian show, light snacks and refreshments. The Grafton-Midview Public Library has become a meeting space and an invaluable hub in the community for generations of Village of Grafton residents. From young and old ages, to the programming, special events, Summer Reading opportunities and their strategic help with the Village’s revitalization efforts, we congratulate and thank the Grafton-Midview Public Library on this milestone.



Mayor DiVencenzo presents the Grafton-Midview Public Library with a Proclamation for their 75th Anniversary.

Congratulations on the Election Outcome for Village of Grafton

November 5, 2019, was Election Day all over the State of Ohio, and the Village of Grafton would like to officially congratulate the following individuals on being elected, re-elected and retained.

** Mayor: David M. DiVencenzo*

** Ward 3- Richard F. Logue II*

** Clerk-Treasurer: Amy R. Barnhart*

** Ward 4- Lynette M. Kitts*

Flip the Switch Event Launches Project Beacon

Thank you to everyone who participated in the “Flip the Switch” ceremony that took place on Saturday, November 16, 2019, at the Ohio Department of Transportation facility on Route 83 to officially launch the construction of Project Beacon. Dozens of people attended the ceremony to officially “flip the switch” on Project Beacon, which is the Village’s 4-Megawatt solar energy farm and partners our community with Eitri Foundry, who built the project along with Safari Energy, who is leasing the 35-acre footprint from Grafton. Project Beacon will connect to the Village’s power grid, with an overall goal of reducing electric costs for everyone.



Mayor David DiVencenzo and Village Administrator Joe Price welcome Project Beacon with the intent on reducing energy costs for Grafton resident.



Mayor DiVencenzo recently told a local publication that “From day one, Project Beacon must benefit the Village and reduce our electric costs. We’re going to achieve that goal.” In December 2018, Grafton Public Power & Light made an agreement with EITRI Foundry of Orlando, Florida, in a 30-year plan to supply energy for the village. To start, the solar panels will generate four megawatts of energy. This project represents the single largest solar installation in a five-county area, and recently prompted an invitation for Village Administrator Joe Price, to speak about Project Beacon to the Ohio Economic Development Association at its Annual Summit in Columbus. Stay tuned for more information forthcoming about Solar Phase 2 in the near future, and how it will raise the profile of the Village regionally and nationally.

Upcoming Projects for Bid in the Spring 2020

The Village of Grafton remains “on the move” for projects that will upgrade and enhance our community for generations to come. Please see below to learn more about updates for our projects and what is going out to bid in the Spring of 2020.

- North Water Tower Improvements
- Chestnut Street Phase II- Going to bid in the Spring 2020
- Finishing Chestnut Street Phase I- Almost nearly lcompleted
- Wastewater equipment has arrived and is being installed, including a new sludge press dewatering system to make operations at the Wastewater Treatment Facility more efficient
- North Park from Nature Works- awaiting funding approval and considerations
- Working on state improvement plans
- Applied for OPWC funds for new water lines on Mechanic Street



Congratulations to Lu's Pizza, who successfully reopened after less than 6 months after the historic fire in the Village!



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Upcoming Events

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Nov 29-30 only

Wild Bird Extravaganza

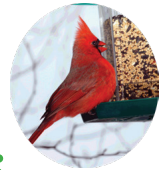
Nov 29-Dec 7

Pictures with Santa

Dec 14 10a-2p

Pet Birthday Club

Stop in and sign your pet up for our birthday club!



Upcoming Village Events



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 Midview Kiwanis Noon at Village Hall	27 Thanksgiving Break No School	28 Thanksgiving Day	29 No School for Students	30

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3 Friends of GMPL Meeting 6:30 PM Council Meeting 7:30 PM	4	5	6	7 A History of GMPL 3:00 PM
8	9	10 Midview Kiwanis Noon at Village Hall	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Council Meeting 7:30 PM	18 Midview Schools BOE 6:30 PM	19	20	21
22	23 Winter Break No School	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Winter Break No School	27 Winter Break No School	28
29	30 Winter Break No School	31 New Year's Eve				

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 New Year's Day	2 Winter Break No School	3 Winter Break No School	4
5	6	7 Council Meeting 7:30 PM	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Midview Kiwanis Noon at Village Hall	15	16	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	21 Council Meeting 7:30 PM	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Midview Kiwanis Noon at Village Hall	29	30	31	

Non-Emergency Contact Information

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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