

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
Mayor David DiVencenzo

My, how quickly things can change. When we last corresponded in March, the Village of Grafton had recently hosted its 2nd annual State of the Village presentation and the future was bright. Within days, all of that changed with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. News on April 20th that school would remain online for the remainder of the 2019-2020 School Year was shocking. However, in light of the current health crisis, the good news is that based upon the statistics of the last two weeks, the curve is flattening

slightly in Ohio. Yet, even with this good news, Governor DeWine continues to caution in his daily Press Conferences that the Coronavirus is still out there and it will be something we have to live with until we obtain a vaccine which could be available in a year or so. The Governor understands the importance of "opening up our government," and so beginning earlier this month on May 1st, the state began a phased-in approach to re-opening the state economy. The plan to open Ohio's economy is a work in progress, but it is crucial that we do so in the right way or the consequences could be catastrophic. Governor DeWine will be working with the Governors of Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana and Kentucky to reopen the region's economy in a coordinated and systematic way. Life is going to look a little different until we get a vaccine. People will be encouraged to wear a mask in public and big events such as fairs, sporting events and concerts can be very problematic in the spread of the virus.

In assessing how this impacts the Village of Grafton, there are several significant factors that we all must consider. First, I thank the Village of Grafton Council for continuing to meet in a socially distanced manner so that citizens can be reassured that on a local level, their government continues to work for them. Second, while complying with social distancing requirements, we encourage you to patronize our local businesses and remember that your business was an important component in keeping all of them afloat. The creative methods that store and shop owners have developed to stay economically viable is impressive, but good-old-fashioned business is the best way to help our local merchants. Finally, while this time of year traditionally begins the kickoff to summer, we must all come to the realization that life as we know it will be different in Grafton this summer, and maybe beyond. Summer events, activities, gatherings and youth leagues will all be impacted in some way by the circumstances with an ever-changing reality. So much so, that I am unable to share what those changes will be. Please be patient, remain flexible and we will communicate information to you when we know it.

Until then, thank you for abiding by the social distancing requirements. Stay safe, remain well and be healthy!

Regards,

Mayor David DiVencenzo



Midview Schools hosted a parade to honor the Class of 2020 and remain connected to students on Friday, April 24th



Grafton residents will remain resilient, and as the poster reads: **STRONG**, during this pandemic crisis! See more inside!

Village of Grafton Loves Its Midview Middies!



Parade Designed to Demonstrate Grafton is Strong and Love for Students

On Friday, April 24th, Main Street was home to a heartwarming and pride-filled day where more than 50 vehicles that were creatively decorated paraded from north to south in the community for everyone to cheer on our senior class. Car paint, balloons, streamers, spiritedly dressed students and teachers participated in this event. Onlookers cheered and clapped while dressed in their own Midview swag. A school bus and its driver waved to the community, while escorted by the Village's public safety officials. The COVID-19 situation has dealt the graduating senior class with an unexpected and unprecedented circumstance. We congratulate these particular students on their resilience, strength, determination and flexibility during this time. Great job to all who participated to make this day and parade very special.

Infrastructure Projects and Village Upgrades Push Forward

The Village of Grafton presses forward with a number of infrastructure projects that were already in progress at the start of the calendar year 2020. Such projects are considered to be investments in the future of our community, and work to establish a sense of enhanced connectiveness among our neighborhoods adjacent to downtown. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many individuals in Grafton are enjoying the breaks in the weather with walks around town. Some of these capital improvement projects help to serve this growing need for walkability.

Community Center at North Park

In May, a number of upgrades are slated to take place at the Community Center to enhance the overall experience for residents and rental opportunities. Some of those upgrades will include the completion of the installation of new front windows, along with a new roof being installed at some point during calendar year 2020 as well. The Village of Grafton is also looking to add new doors and upgraded entry system to help improve the safety and security of the building as well. An interior upgrade to the facility is anticipated as well, enhancing the overall decor and furniture within the area. The Village knows that the Community Room is one of the most utilized assets in the Village of Grafton, and in order to keep it on pace to make it a fine amenity in the future, more investments will be made here as well.



The Community Room at North Park has experienced notable enhancements and will continue to be upgraded over the next year with improved windows, entry system, furniture and more!

Waste Water Treatment Center Enhancements



The new centrifuge was installed last year to make the separations process of dry material and compliant water more technologically advanced, efficient and cost effective.

The Village of Grafton has made a number of important upgrades at the Waste Water Treatment Facility as well, which has been reported in the pages of this newsletter over the years. The installation of the centrifuge has made a permanent impact on the effective operations of the Waste Water Treatment Facility, helping to improve safety and overall facility efficiency. This technology allows for a more accurate separation of dry cake material from the water, reducing our tipping fees for the sludge material that must be hauled offsite. Technology makes the operation of the centrifuge safer and simpler in a nearby control room, where push-button innovation helps to control the machine. In addition, a new 4,900 square foot facility on the south part of the property is out for bid at the moment that will provide more administrative, work and equipment storage space for the operation.

Chestnut Street Enhancements

The Chestnut Street reconstruction project continues at full steam and the addition of new watermain, new residential lateral supply connections, a new natural gas line and new sanitary sewer mains with lateral taps will also be included upon project completion. In addition, new stormwater drainage is part of the project, curb and gutter construction and, finally, a full pavement replacement component. The first phase scope of work will include all infrastructure from Mechanic Street to Main Street. In March 2019, the project was awarded a grant for Underground Utilities for \$865,688.25 and an OPWC grant/loan funding of \$400,000. The Village remains hopeful that the project is on track for a completion later this summer.



The south end of Chestnut Street is completely renovated and looks terrific!



The north end remains under construction and will be completed by the end of this year!

Grafton Village Residents and Business Show their Pride!



Thank you for your support!
Stay Safe, Remain Healthy, Be Well!

Sparkle Market Helps Grafton Community Cope With COVID-19



Locally Owned Main Street Grocer Supplies Village Residents During Current Pandemic Crisis

The Village of Grafton is fortunate to have such a compassionate local merchant in David Wildeheim from the Sparkle Market conveniently located at 460 North Main Street. For more than 60+ years, Sparkle Market has been a mainstay in Grafton to fulfill the everyday household needs of our residents. Offering produce, meats, a bakery, deli and more, Sparkle Market is dedicated to providing customers with clean and a friendly shopping environment with exceptional value and the highest standards. This approach to delivering a first-rate, top quality customer experience has been even more apparent during the COVID-19 crisis. They are even open from 7 a.m. until 8 a.m. for residents over the age of 65 years and for those in the community who might be most vulnerable to the current pandemic.



David Wildeheim is the owner of Sparkle Market, whose family has run the local grocer for decades

One of the signature features for Sparkle Market is its Weekly Specials. Selectively identified by David and other managers of the market, the Weekly Specials attempt to blend the needs from the community with value shopping. In any given week, a wide variety of specials from snacks, daily staples such as bread and milk, flavored soft drinks and coffee are discounted. Shoppers can always get a sneak-peak of the Weekly Specials at www.graftonsparkle.com. Be sure to visit this site on a weekly basis to see revised updates and discounted items.



The employees of Sparkle Market have remained flexible and dedicated during the pandemic and are to be graciously thanked!

Sparkle Market also offers non-traditional grocer services, that make visiting their location an opportunity to receive a great deal of added value with specialty services. These include issuing money orders, for those needing a little added financial service along with bill pay opportunities. Looking to get your clothes dry cleaned? Well Sparkle Market is the place for you, to deliver or pick up your laundered items before or after you food shop.

David is part of a long legacy in this family business which dates back to 1935. His parents, Walter and Doris Wildeheim bought the business in 1946, transforming it into a local grocer. Over the years, it has been known as 'The Volunteer Food Store'.... 'The Grafton Food Center'... and today, 'Sparkle Market.' Upgrades have continued over the last several decades, but one thing has remained constant during all of this time: a Commitment to operating as a community supermarket with friendly employees, numerous additional services with the freshest foods. Meats are first rate. Bakery is prepared daily. Custom cakes, food trays and more are available. The community is invited to be part of this food family!


The Village of Grafton would like to thank David Wildeheim and his family for the long legacy of serving our residents and our community. The added benefits and hours during the COVID-19 pandemic has helped to fill a role in our residents' lives that might have otherwise left them vulnerable or scrambling for access to needed supplies such as food, houseware products, and of course, toilet paper! On behalf of everyone in Grafton, our gratitude is extended to Sparkle Market and its staff for their grace, graciousness and generosity during this great time of societal need!



Produce, meats, bakery and so much more are part of the fresh daily offerings at Sparkle Market

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

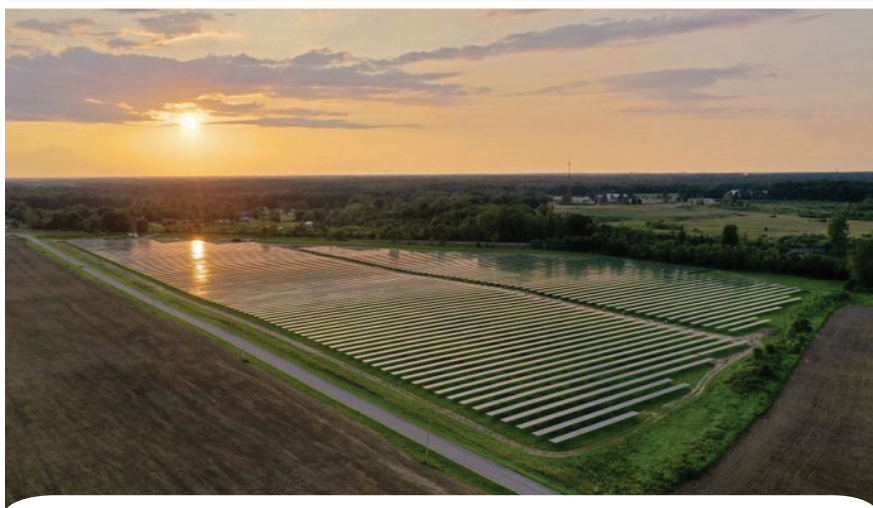
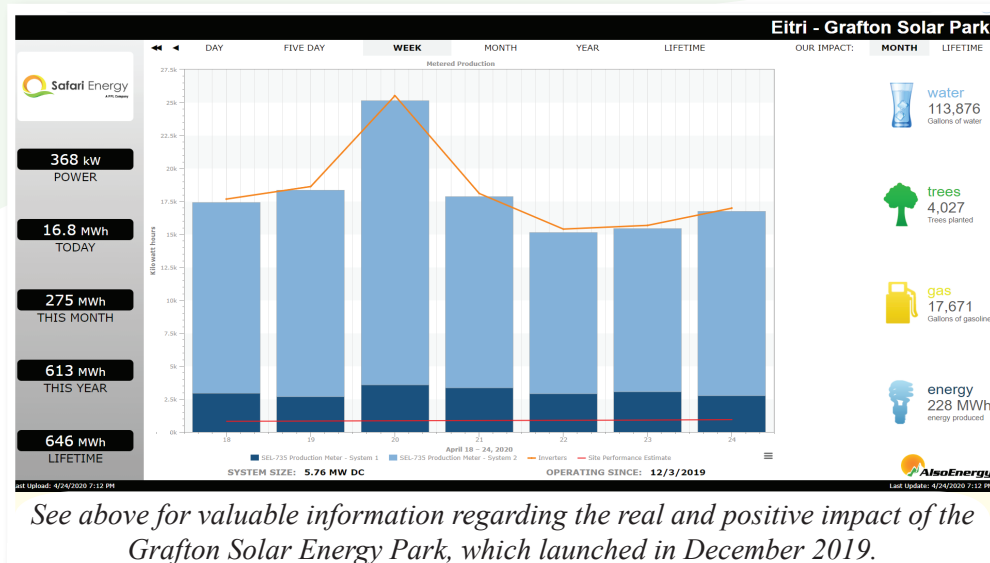
- SUPERIOR OUTCOMES
- LARGE PRIVATE ROOMS
- HIGHLY RATED BY MEDICARE



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

Solar Energy Park Already Paying Dividends for Village Residents

Village residents in Grafton are already experiencing an overall total electric cost savings from the visionary Grafton Solar Energy Park that launched during calendar year 2019. In partnership with Safari Energy, a leading national solar partner and design engineers, Eitri Foundry, the Village of Grafton flipped the switch on the 5.7-megawatt solar energy farm with the idea of creating renewable energy and bringing a dynamic economic development opportunity to Lorain County. The by-product has been a reduced electricity bill for residents, who as of late were experiencing lower power cost adjustment rates monthly, April's power cost adjustment averaged approximately \$3.20. The ground-mounted system spans nearly 35 acres and at full capacity, is expected to generate more than 280 million kilowatt hours of electricity in its lifetime over the next 30 years, offsetting an estimated equivalent of nearly 200,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, that some sources claim, could charge more than 25 billion smartphones.



The Grafton Solar Energy Park spans nearly 35 acres

The nearby chart demonstrates the cross-section of a 7-day time frame and the estimated reductions experienced by Village residents. Grafton leaders were dedicated from the very launch of this project to be on the cutting edge of technology while keeping citizens' best interests at the forefront. Several months into the project, the investment in solar energy is already paying off for the Village. Stay tuned for more information in the near future on this project. The unique consideration of this project is this Solar project does not generate any additional revenue for city finances, instead, by design it lowers cost to all Grafton Electric customers allowing them to keep more of their hard earned money strengthening their personal and/or business finances.

City Council Still Holds Socially Distanced Meetings. Please Check Website and Facebook Often.

Village officials respectfully ask all residents and businesses to check the Village website, found at www.villageofgrafton.org and Facebook often for revised dates, times and information regarding events, activities and meetings. The COVID-19 pandemic has upended traditions throughout our community, and the Village will do its best to keep constant communications revised and shared as best as possible. Please note the calendar on the next page for more information. Also keep in mind that many events and activities are listed as "Subject to Change." To know the final decisions on the outcome of such activities, we advise you to go to these online channels for the most readily available information. Village Council meetings are continuing to take place at Village Hall following all social-distancing standards and guidelines. Once again, please see the calendar for those dates and times. The Village of Grafton is committed to doing whatever is necessary to remain optimistic and hosting events while following the directives as ordered by the State of Ohio and other elected leaders.

Upcoming Village Events

Please remember to check the Village Website and Facebook page for updates as event scheduling will be updated sometime after June 1st, 2020 due to COVID 19.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ MAY ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 Bulk Pickup by Republic Services Resumes	2 Helping Hands Drive Thru Food Pantry 10:00 AM-12:00 PM behind Our Lady Queen of Peace Church Hall
3	4	5 Council Meeting 7:30 PM	6 Community Brush Pick Up Resumes	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Council Meeting 7:30 PM	20	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31						

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ JUNE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2 Splash Pad scheduled to open June 2nd if no longer a restricted activity after June 1st, SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Council Meeting 7:30 PM	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Memorial Day Parade is canceled. Ceremony at the Police Department with details to be posted online. SUBJECT TO CHANGE
14 Flag Day	15	16 Council Meeting 7:30 PM	17	18	19	20
21 Father's Day	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ JULY ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3 *Fireworks SUBJECT TO CHANGE	4 Independence Day *Parade SUBJECT TO CHANGE
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 No Council Meeting	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Council Meeting 7:30 PM	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Non-Emergency Contact Information

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Streets	(440) 926-2260
Electric	(440) 926-2912
Sewer	(440) 926-2765
Fire (non emergency)	(440) 926-2075
Police (non emergency)	(440) 926-2261