

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*

Dear Village of Grafton Residents and Businesses,

The mild temperatures experienced as of late share a glimpse of mother nature attempting to make a final grasp of the warmth experienced over the last season-and-a-half. Hopefully your family and friends were able to take time to enjoy the seasonal temperatures with outdoor activities, events and fun. Such times spent together outdoors help us to remember that life and laughter characterize our time in the Village of Grafton. Colorful leaves, the smokey aroma of evening bonfires, and branches swaying in the wind evoke a magical emotion, and one worth sharing with those we love. Those who live in Northeast Ohio know, however, that the tenderness of autumn lasts only for a while,

and that just around the corner are the tumultuous temperatures of old man winter. We'll ferociously fight to withstand those conditions for as long as possible, and link arm-in-arm in the camaraderie of the season.

The 2nd Annual Grafton Fall Festival was one such event where families, friends, acquaintances, and even pets enjoyed a wonderful early autumn day with fun, festivities and more. Throughout the afternoon of Saturday, October 1st, a variety of vehicles were displayed in Willow Park, including vintage and contemporary tractors, cars, motor scooters, blacksmithing displays and short rides were provided. The fragrance of fresh cooked foods and harvested veggies provided timeless treasures to patrons. Crafts of all types provided entertainment to those of all ages. The LaGrange Engine Club partnered with the Village of Grafton to create this event last year, and then to see it through to make it an annual affair. Special thanks goes out to the organizers of this event, who demonstrate care and a timeless affinity for our community-at-large.

As we collectively say goodbye to the autumnal season, we look forward to early winter and the symbolic underpinnings which characterize the holidays. And, there is no better way to usher the holiday season than by participating in the annual Old Fashioned Christmas event, on Friday, December 2nd from 6 - 8 p.m. Throughout this publication, you will see information about this most festive of events during our calendar year. Residents and businesses should prepare their hearts and their minds for taking a glimpse into Christmas past. Characters, costumes, regalia, ornaments of calico and glass will all be on display for our community to enjoy, along with the seasonally-themed ornaments and delectable treats. Please be sure that you carve out some time to enjoy the spirit of the holiday season during Old Fashioned Christmas. You will be glad you did. Please mark your calendars. Grand Reopening Ribbon Cutting for Grafton Main Street will be held on Friday December 2nd at 6:00 pm near Town Hall before the Old-Fashioned Christmas festivities that night. Visit Main Street and be part of a Fun and Exciting Night.

This edition of the Village Pride publication shares an update of projects taking place around our community as well. For the last several years, the Village has been hard at work improving our infrastructure and upgrading capital improvement projects for the long-term interests of our residents. The internal pages of this document showcase those projects, including Main Street, and the adjoining arteries as well. Special thank you to the officials within the Village who help to make these projects possible, as well as Council, for their constant support and guidance.

I look forward to seeing you at Old Fashioned Christmas, and until then, thank you very much for the honor and privilege it is to serve you as Mayor. With great pride and respects...

Sincerely,

Mayor David DiVencenzo



Late fall decorations will soon give way to a festive holiday season in Grafton. From our Grafton Fall Festival, to the Old Fashioned Christmas celebration, be sure to read more inside this publication.



Participants at the 2nd Annual Fall Festival came together on Saturday, October 1st for seasonal fun and celebrations. See some more pictures of the event on Page 2!

LaGrange Engine Club Partners with Village of Grafton for 2nd Annual Fall Festival... See More Pictures Below for the Wonderful Time that Took Place!

Happiness... Seasonal Fun... Activities... Food... Pumpkins... Vintage Tractors and more! All of these items were on full display for the community to witness during the LaGrange Engine Club and Village of Grafton's 2nd Annual Fall Fest. Individuals and families from throughout the community converged on Willow Park for another seasonally-oriented day of fun. The weather was wonderful. The people who participated perpetuated positivity and pleasantness. Complete with fun games, autumnal décor which included cornstalks, straw bales, pumpkins, chrysanthemums, and blue asters, and refreshments of all types, dozens of people enjoyed the day in the Village of Grafton. In case you missed the celebration, see some of the happy pictures below!



Important Updates and News All Around Grafton!

ENVISION GRAFTON MAIN STREET PHASE 1 NEARING COMPLETION, LOOKING OUTSTANDING!

As many residents know, the Main Street reconstruction progress has all been completed, and save for a punch list of items, the main thoroughfare for Grafton motorists and pedestrians is bound to become an entirely new and improved experience. With principal construction completed during the week of October 24th, the overall progress of the project went as expected. The Phase 1 component of this project comes in conjunction with a separate project, the Parsons Road resurfacing, from Main Street to the Royal Oaks Metroparks entryway. Some of the finishing touches on landscaping and striping can be expected in the next several weeks. Residents can also expect new lighting in the downtown district, along with the installation of rapid flash beacons, the foundations for which have been installed. Another feature of this project will be the incorporation of reverse-in parking only in the downtown district. While some may have reservations about this feature in the project, studies point to enhanced safety as opposed to head-in parking. More information is available on reverse-in parking and is posted on our website. The Village thanks you for your patience as the project comes to a close.



Envision Grafton Phase 1 enhancements have improved the Main Street Corridor with a new surface, parking, sidewalks, landscaping and lighting.

One aspect through which residents will see the forward-thinking approach of Village leaders will be in lighting, and how it will create a positive ambiance 12 months out of the year. The Village is pursuing string lighting which will run parallel with the street, a concept inspired by a recent visit of Village leaders to Bellevue, Ohio. Next year's street scape will include a greatly enhanced flower planting program, which is expected to greatly complement the current landscaping which should be coming into full foliage.

Finally, the Village is very excited about Phase 1's connection with the Ohio Rail Development Commission, and CSX, for the sake of connectivity and safety. Where in the past bicyclists and pedestrians had to cross the street merging with traffic, now, this current configuration will not require such a merger, since walkers and bikers can cross independently of traffic.



Lighting will run parallel with the streets giving the Village Main Street area a 12-month lit ambiance.

ENVISION GRAFTON PHASE 2 PLANNED FOR NEXT SUMMER 2023

Phase 2 of the Main Street project is currently slated for project launch during the summer of 2023 and will encompass the length from Mechanic Street to the Willow Park entrance. Phase 2 will include enhancements to curbs and gutters, new sidewalks, storm water improvements, a slight re-alignment of Elm Street to Main Street, and a significant re-alignment of Willow Street to Main Street for enhanced peripheral visibility. One additional rapid flash beacon permitting people to safely cross from Willow Park to the newly enhanced amenities of Reservoir Park including the trailhead will also be a feature of Phase 2. Funding for both Phase 1 and Phase 2 comes from N.O.A.C.A., O.D.O.T. safety funds, and O.P.W.C. Stay tuned for more awesome updates!

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON PURCHASES NEW FIRE TRUCK!


The Village of Grafton recently purchased a 2022 Pierce Saber pumper truck, replacing a truck that had been in use since 1990. This equipment upgrade, intended to help ensure safety for our residents, carries 1,000 gallons of water and can pump 1,500 gallons per minute of pump capacity. The safety vehicle can seat 4 people, and features all-LED lighting. All battery powered hand tools can be found on board as well. The purpose of purchasing this new public safety vehicle is to elevate and enhance the Village's safety and protection for residents and businesses alike. Village officials view this as a major advancement in doing so. Thank you for your continued support. Give a wave next time you see the fire truck meandering through town.



The 2022 Fire Truck pumper holds 1,000 gallons of water and was purchased to enhance safety throughout the community.

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Important Updates and News All Around Grafton!

BEN PALAZZI WINS HARD HAT AWARD FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR!

Grafton Village Power and Line Lead Lineman Ben Palazzi was recently awarded the Hard Hat Award for the second consecutive year, for his hard work and commitment to safety. Astonishingly, Palazzi's department charted ZERO DAYS LOST DUE TO on-the-job safety injuries during 2021, demonstrating the department's commitment to safety. Congratulations Ben!



Ben Palazzi with this year's Hard Hat Award, earned from American Municipal Power



Grafton Mayor Dave DiVencenzo; Ben Palazzi, electric department lead lineman; and Joe Price, village administrator accept the Safety Commendation during the AMP Annual Conference.

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON VOTED ONTO BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR AMERICAN MUNICIPAL POWER!

The Village of Grafton was recently voted to be a member of the Board of American Municipal Power, an organization that represents 133 public power systems in 9 states, making our community one of 21 Board Members. The Board of American Municipal Power makes decisions in Columbus and spends close to \$1Billion annually. Such a seat on the Board enhances the Village's prestige, and gives us a greater voice in energy affairs. Being on this board allows the Village to oversee what outside factors impact energy costs. The Board researches power generation sources, and reviews legislative matters as well. This is the first time since AMP's inception in 1971. Uniquely, Grafton also joins Wellington and Oberlin as three communities in Lorain County with three voting members. In all, being named to the Board of AMP should help improve energy awareness for our community and beyond!

Dear Grafton Utility Customer,

Grafton Utilities rely on electronic read transmitters (ERT's) to document your water and electric use for billing. Current ERT internal batteries are approaching their 2023 end-of-life, some are experiencing premature failure.

If your utility bill in past months lists the identical amount for water or electric more than 3-months consecutively this is likely due to minimum consumption use or, possibly a non-read due to a failure to read due to an internal battery failure or disconnected ERT- transmitter. **Every household water and electric consumption will vary month to month.** If you notice the same amount being billed for water or electric consumption three or more consecutive months please notify the utility department at: 440-926-2401 Ext. 1.

ERT's are on order. Your utility department is experiencing some supply chain delays however, the orders are arriving when available. Grafton Utilities has replaced close to 100 ERT's in recent months, they plan on replacing known non-read water ERT's first, all remaining (still functioning) water ERT's will be replaced in months following as time and material permits. The water ERT is located outside your home and will not require entry. As the new ERT's are installed the water utility technician will be able to verify the ERT is reading. Should a non-read or fault still occur the water department will leave you a notice to schedule a time when they can enter the home to inspect the ERT wiring and connection to the water meter.

Should your home electric meter need to be replaced, the electric department will notify you of the need to disconnect your power prior to installing the new meter. This generally takes less than 15-minutes.

Thank you for your patience,

Village of Grafton Utilities



GRAFTON UTILITY COMMUNICATION

MAIN STREET GRAFTON'S
*It's a Frosty the Snowman
Old-Fashioned
Christmas*

Friday, December 2, from 6 - 8 PM

- Visit with Santa at the Library
- Visit the Old Grafton School
- Crafts, games, and raffles
- Participate in local business events
- And much more!



Purchase raffle tickets at the Library or 15:13. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5/\$20.

This year's baskets are worth over \$1000

Proceeds go toward future community events. Order tickets online at:
<http://s.thegiftcardcafe.com/wWZYnd>



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BRING THE KIDS!

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AND EDUCATION ALL
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There are so many wonderful things at the Grafton-Midview Public Library for your child to enjoy!

- Storytimes return in January
- New table crafts for Tweens
- A new TV with different live animal feeds every day
- A larger play kitchen with utensils
- Plenty of teen games and events
- Kid-friendly displays and much more!



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Upcoming Village Events

Please remember to check the Village Website and Facebook page for updates on a regular basis.
Thank you for your continued support.



☆☆☆ November ☆☆☆						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1 Village Council Meeting 7:30 PM at Village Hall	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Midview Kiwanis 12 noon - 1 PM Village Hall	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Village Council Meeting 7:30 PM at Village Hall	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Midview Kiwanis 12 noon - 1 PM Village Hall	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

☆☆☆ December ☆☆☆						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2 Old Fashioned Christmas 6-8 PM	3
4	5	6 Village Council Meeting 7:30 PM at Village Hall	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Midview Kiwanis 12 noon - 1 PM Village Hall	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Village Council Meeting 7:30 PM at Village Hall	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day	26	27 Midview Kiwanis 12 noon - 1 PM Village Hall	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve Day

☆☆☆ January ☆☆☆						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day	2	3 Village Council Meeting 7:30 PM at Village Hall	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Midview Kiwanis 12 noon - 1 PM Village Hall	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Village Council Meeting 7:30 PM at Village Hall	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Midview Kiwanis 12 noon - 1 PM Village Hall	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

Please mark your calendars. Grand Reopening Ribbon Cutting for Grafton Main Street will be held on Friday December 2nd at 6:00 pm near Town Hall before the Old-Fashioned Christmas festivities that night. Visit Main Street and be part of a Fun and Exciting Night.

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