



# 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 Grafton Residents and Businesses,

Summertime prompts happiness, delight, friendship and teamwork, while evoking some of the greatest emotions of patriotism that can be displayed during the calendar year. In our own respective and private ways, thoughts of national pride, what it means to be an American, the symbolic nature of the stars and stripes, all have manifest themselves in public displays of patriotism throughout our community. Such was the case during the months of June, July and August as the community eagerly anticipated what has successfully been resumed as our 4th of July

celebration. Leading up to the nation's birthday, the community truly comes together to make sure the celebration is alive and well. Our corporate and individual sponsors make the fireworks display a reality, and we are grateful to each and everyone one of them. The bands and vendors add a special dynamic to the celebration at Willow Park, and we are grateful to the performances and enlivened the early evening. Finally, without the thousands of faithful Grafton community members... the men and women... sons and daughters... grandparents... and more... the Village of Grafton allows the glowing lights of fireworks truly make our community the beacon of light in Lorain County. Thank you to everyone who makes this tradition so special and one of great significance for us all.

Fortunately, such a collaborative effort to celebrate one season has become contagious among our leadership and community supporters. The Village of Grafton is excited to share that a Fall Festival will take place in the month of October, to help celebrate the enjoyment our community shares for what was once considered to be the harvest time. Shorts and sunglasses will be exchanged for flannel shirts and jeans, but what will remain is the compassion we have for our community and high regard we have for one

another. Please see page 6 inside to learn more about the fall festival in October, as it is certain to be a wonderful community celebration.

The Village of Grafton is so very excited to honor the veterans who have served our nation, with the most significant manner of respect, through the construction of the new Veteran's Memorial--- and the recent news that the State of Ohio has awarded \$150,000 in grants to help offset the costs. The Village commends our partners with the State of Ohio, our elected officials who helped lobby for these funds, and the final decision-makers who enabled such a significant capital budget allocation for our Veteran's Memorial. You can read more about the \$150,000 from the State of Ohio, as well as an update on the project, inside this edition.

Also included inside this Village Pride newsletter will be an update of other important projects, such as Parsons Road reconstruction and the Envision Grafton Main Street project. Our internal team of village administrators and council members work tirelessly to identify the areas where needed upgrades exist, and to plan for these projects. What has become a signature trait of our leadership team, is the exhaustive work they invest to identify funds from outside agencies to help fund these projects. Their creativity, leadership and execution is among the finest of municipal managers and leaders.

The dog days of summer are upon us, so warm temperatures are here to stay for a little while longer. While you enjoy your final summer strolls, activities, and events... be mindful to think about how strong the Village of Grafton remains, rooted in our deep beliefs for one another, our community...and our nation.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Mayor David DiVencenzo



*The Village of Grafton Gazebo represents the heart-and-soul gathering spot during the summer. Here, readers find seasonal décor, and a relaxing spot to stop and rest on warm summer evenings.*



*Patrick Weir, from Our Lady Queen of Peace, takes great pride in the beautiful blooms and flowers.*



## Village of Grafton Expresses Gratitude for Fireworks Donations!

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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Your support for our community makes the annual fireworks celebration possible. Best of all, the events, activities, and collaborative efforts continue to grow. Our special gratitude goes out to these individuals and entities for making the 4th of July so meaningful in the Village of Grafton. With such support, you have truly made Grafton the Beacon of Light in Lorain County.



# Great Stories Around the Village of Grafton: The Beacon of Light in Lorain County

## VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PROJECT RECEIVES HUGE BOOST WITH \$150,000 GRANT FROM STATE OF OHIO , CELEBRATE GRAFTON DONATION

The Village of Grafton's efforts to honor and support veterans in our community received a tremendous boost from the State of Ohio with the recent Capital Grant award of a \$150,000 capital grant will help fund construction of the final product. This amazing award, combined with earlier generous donations from the Celebrate Grafton 5K race and 1 mile walk, now raise the total donations to \$161,000.00 that will go towards the \$225,000.00 goal to fund a finished Veterans Memorial that will include a solemn and significant monument, beautiful landscaping, refined lighting, irrigation to keep the areas beautified and adjoining sidewalks. The project is anticipated to start construction fall of 2023 and should be completed next year as well. Special thanks goes out to Linda Bales, who worked closely to statewide elected representatives Gayle and Nathan Manning, to secure this funding. More information will be forthcoming as you continue to read upcoming editions of the newsletter. Thank you for your interest and support of the project.



*Thank you to the State of Ohio and the Celebrate Grafton Race, which donated \$1,000 to the Village in support of the Veterans Memorial monument.*



*Please join the Village of Grafton in welcoming Mark Kalinowski, new Waste Water Treatment facility Superintendent*

## WELCOME TO MARK KALINOWSKI TO THE VILLAGE OF GRAFTON WASTE WATER TREATMENT CENTER

The Village of Grafton would like to formally welcome Mark Kalinowski as the new Waste Water Treatment Plant Superintendent. Mark takes over this new role effective June 13th and has already hit the ground running, using his many years of experience in the public service and sanitation work. Mark is a Lorain County resident, living in Columbia Station. He was most recently employed by the Erie County Sanitation plant, where he served in the capacity of supervisor at their waste water treatment facility. He is a certified Class 3 Operator. The Village of Grafton will look to utilize his experience and integrity at the facility. He will be including improvements to the SCATA systems for more reliable reporting. He oversees a staff of 3 departments workers, four including himself. Mark will report directly to the administrator and the Mayor, and looks forward to creating sustainability for the waste water treatment facility, along with meaningful working relationships. Welcome to the team, Mark!

## PARSONS ROAD PROJECT UPDATE

The Parsons Road resurfacing project was recently awarded, as yet another infrastructure project that will keep benefitting residents for many years to come. The major resurfacing project will focus on the area of the Black River Bridge, east to Main Street, and the Black River west to the Metro Parks Royal Oaks location. Road projects such as the Parsons Road resurfacing including a top coating of materials to enhance the drivability experience for motorists and will include restriping the street topping as well. This added project will be a continuation of the overall Envision Grafton MAIN St., Phase I. project. Please drive safely as you see construction areas throughout the Village. These projects are intended to improve the community connectivity, so let's please practice responsible driving practices.



*Happy Birthday to Tim Tim, joined by his father Tim Harris! Celebrating a birthday in August!*




*Tom Nowak enjoys family time with grandson, Flynn at North Park playground*



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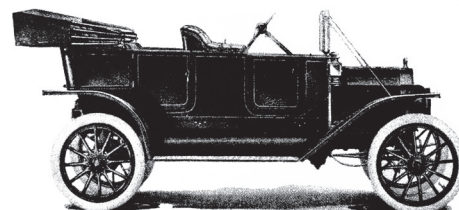
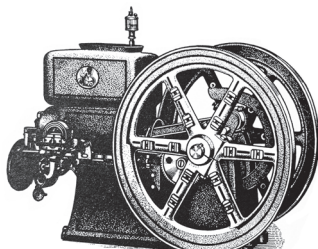
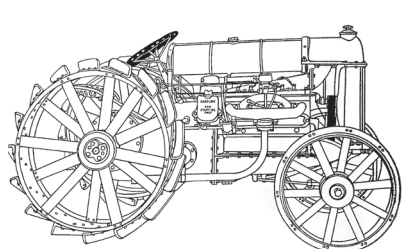
Celebrate National Library Card  
sign up month in September.



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# SECOND ANNUAL GRAFTON FALL FESTIVAL



Saturday, October 1, 2022  
9am - 5pm  
Willow Park, Grafton, Ohio

Tractors, Gas Engines, Cars, Motor Scooters,  
Blacksmithing, and other great displays!

Farm Market, Crafters, Food Vendors

Short Tractor Ride Around Town  
(and Scooters, Cars, Etc.)

*Sponsored by*

**LaGrange Engine Club and Village of Grafton**

*Contacts:*

**Village of Grafton 440-926-2401**

**LaGrange Engine Club 440-309-5688**





# Village of Grafton... *IS GROWING!* Read more about the business and infrastructure growth over the last several months.

## ENVISION GRAFTON, BECOMING REALITY...

The Envision Grafton Project is becoming reality, as residents and businesses are aware of the sidewalk construction underway. By the time of this publication, east side lighting foundations will have been installed, to make way for the forthcoming illumination that is anticipated for the corridor. In the near future, lighting foundations on the west side of the street will be scheduled to be installed by the end of August. Sidewalks and aprons are being constructed and replaced, to help ease the walkability of Main Street.



*Sidewalks are a first step in the Envision Grafton Project Phase I, to promote and enhance accountability.*



*Downtown Businesses maintain their livelihoods while the Village upgrades and enhances the surrounding areas.*



*The Reservoir Park Pathway is fully completed and opened for pedestrians.*

## RESERVOIR PARK PATHWAY LEADS TO ENHANCED WALKABILITY AND WELLNESS

Crushed limestone...widened and inviting pathways... chirping birds.... bass kicking out of the serene and still water top of the reservoir. All the way around the perimeter of the Village of Grafton's notable parkway, a new path has made enjoying this family-friendly environmental feature all the more accessible. Funding for the Reservoir Park pathway has once again been made possible with last year's capital improvement grant from the State of Ohio, and the hard work of Linda Bales, in identifying outside funding resources. Way to go!

## GRAFTON IS GROWING

GVP&L (Grafton Village Power & Light) is growing with the recent addition of another skilled technician, bringing our service team to the highest total our community has seen. Welcome to Chase Johnson, who recently graduated from Cleveland State University, with a cum laude grade point average status, and a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Chase will help the GVP&L team as they continue to work hard with improvements of the electric service and grid serving Village residents and businesses. Chase is a welcomed addition, and we wish him well in this capacity. In other departmental news, the Village is currently seeking to a 4th full time position in the Service Department, to help keep the level of engagement with citizens strong and strong and vibrant. Thanks for your support in helping to... **Keep Grafton Growing...**

## BE SURE TO STOP IN AT VILLAGE COFFEE AND CREAMERY

Congratulations to Denise Worthy and her team as the Village Coffee and Creamery has opened with tremendous success. Take note of the nearby pictures of menus for both coffees, drinks, desserts, and their world-famous ice cream.



*Village Coffee and Creamery has opened with tremendous success.*



# 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.



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

★ ★ ★ September ★ ★ ★						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6 Village Council Meeting 7:30 PM at Village Hall	7	8	9	10
11 Patriot Day	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
25	26	27 Midview Kiwanis 12 noon - 1 PM Village Hall	28	29	30	1

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

## Non-Emergency Contact Information

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**Diana Kazmierczak** (440) 926-2401 opt. 2  
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