



# 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,

Warmer temperatures have finally arrived, and appear to be here to stay, and I can think of no finer place to enjoy summertime than the Village of Grafton. Around nearly every corner of our fine community is a glimpse into the enhancements underway, or the strong character of our people in some way. The Main Street corridor is a perfect example of such improvements, as the glorious corridor through which our community passes routinely has been improved for walkability, motor travel,

aesthetics, and functionality. Nighttime is illuminated with the wonderful glow of new streetlights. Landscaping arrangements in the bump-outs and the pretty hanging baskets provide a welcome to visitors and frequenters alike. In all, warm weather in the Village of Grafton is as splendid as warm apple pie and ice cream!

Throughout this publication you will read a variety of important updates. First, please take note that due to the growth of our community, per the census totals from 2020, the Village of Grafton has been compelled to redraw our ward lines throughout the entire community. The most recent update had taken place in the year 2000, and as everyone knows, Grafton looks different today than it did two decades ago. An article and full-scale map are included in this publication on pages 4 and 5. Please pay special attention if you live in either Ward 3 or Ward 4, since this year there will be a council race in these specific areas. Changes that were formally adopted by Council on Tuesday, May 16th will be memorialized with the Lorain County Board of Elections, and they will soon be sending a letter of notification with further details.

Grafton is known for its events and activities, and such will be the case throughout the summer with a variety of opportunities for residents to show their community support. We'd like to thank everyone who took advantage of the annual Shred Day, formally disposing of documents in an appropriate, safe, and legal manner. In addition, thank you to the residents and organizations who helped with Beautify Grafton on May 20th, for your help in picking up rubbish, spreading mulch, and planting flowers. Look over every shoulder, and residents will see a devoted stock of people who care about making our community look first rate. We will all Celebrate Grafton on Saturday, July 1st at Willow Park, with our annual commemoration of our nation's birthday. This free event has grown tremendously over the years, and will include three bands, food, fun, friendship, and at dusk, a terrific tribute to the freedoms we have in our country with a patriotic fireworks salute. Already, many entities have stepped forward to donate to support our cause, and we thank them mightily. Please be sure to join us on Saturday, July 1st for Celebrate Grafton.

Finally, I close my report with the announcement that Mrs. Amy Barnhart will be retiring from her position as Village Clerk this year. Amy has been a loyal servant of the Village's funds for the past 8 years. In that time, the Village and her office has truly flourished. She is a responsible steward of Village funds, a helpful leader of the community in which she has lived for 35 years, and a friend. We thank her for her service, and encourage you to read the article inside this edition.

Looking forward to seeing you this summer!

Mayor David M. DiVencenzo



*Volunteers beautifying the Grafton Midview Public Library.*



*The streetscape flower design has helped beautify Main Street in Downtown Grafton.*

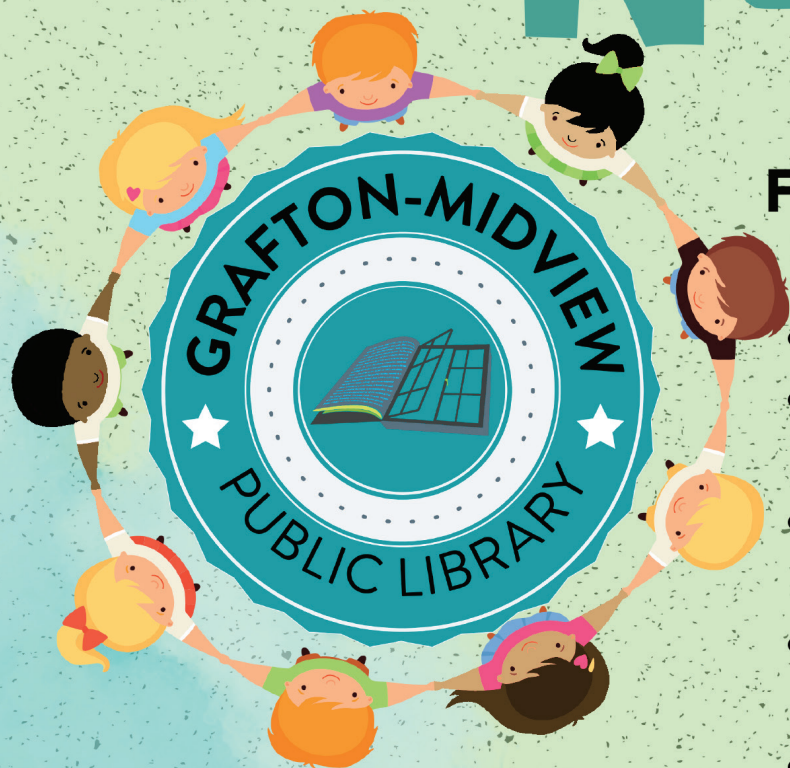


# 2023 Summer Reading Program

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## Infrastructure Projects Continue to Unfold in Grafton

The Village of Grafton believes in investing in projects for the future so that later generations of residents and businesses can reap the benefits of today's sound and thoughtful planning. Please read below to see many of the projects which are underway, and those that are forthcoming in the near future.

### WASHINGTON DRIVE BID WILL OPEN SOON!

Residents in and around the Washington Drive area can take great pride and comfort knowing that the formal bid will open soon, and construction will begin later this summer for significant water line and pavement replacement enhancements. The Village of Grafton leaders have worked with professionals to design an operation where we will loop the water line into the water line on Woodland Chase. This is very important for several reasons. First, looping the lines will greatly reduce hammering of the overall system. Doing so creates less stress on the lines when hydrants are deployed for emergency uses or other needs. In addition to the water line upgrades, two turnarounds are being added for emergency vehicles. All impacted pavement will then be replaced. The Village is happy to report that major work for this project will be completed for this year.

### CHIP-AND-SEAL WORK AT RESERVOIR PARK

Those in the community who have spent time at Reservoir Park know that the vast property and watering hole is a hidden paradise of peace and tranquility. Many pedestrians visit for an enjoyable walk on the new pathways, or to visit for a ball game during the summer months. However, the entry to park is in dire need of repair and consequently, the Village is aligning with Lorain County's Chip-and-Seal Roadway Program to enhance the drive leading from Main Street into the parking areas. For an amount of approximately \$6,000, patchwork and filling will take place to mitigate the holes in the current drive and smooth the overall surface.



*The Reservoir Park entryway will be chip/sealed this summer.*



*Grafton residents and businesses are taking great pride in their storefronts.*

### DOWNTOWN GRAFTON HAS TRULY EXPERIENCED A MAKEOVER! PHASE I NEARLY COMPLETE AND PHASE II TO BEGIN!

Anyone who has passed through Downtown Grafton must experience the life and energy breathed into the corridor with all of the improvements coming to fruition. The rear-in parking is in full effect, sidewalks have been reconstructed. There is beautiful foliage blossoming from annual flowers and new plant material, thanks to the deliberately designed flower scheme. And, who hasn't noticed the Earth Planter self-watering pots will be placed on every new street light pole bursting with colors. These new flowers have been timed so that there is great pride and impact of the summertime improvement to make us stand out in a significant way.

Phase II for Envision Grafton has been awarded to Buckeye Construction, who will begin work in earnest this summer. Coming on the heels of Columbia Gas Company, who has installed a new gas main and lateral connections as parts of Elm Street and Willow Street, the Village will be installing new sidewalks on both sides of Main Street, upgrading the width from 4 feet to 5 feet, and some pedestrian-friendly sidewalks will be placed where none currently exist. Phase II will also include the installation of the crosswalk with rapid flash beacons (RFB) that will connect Reservoir Park and Willow Park. Let's improve connectivity from one end of the corps limits to the opposite!



# Grafton Village, Ohio

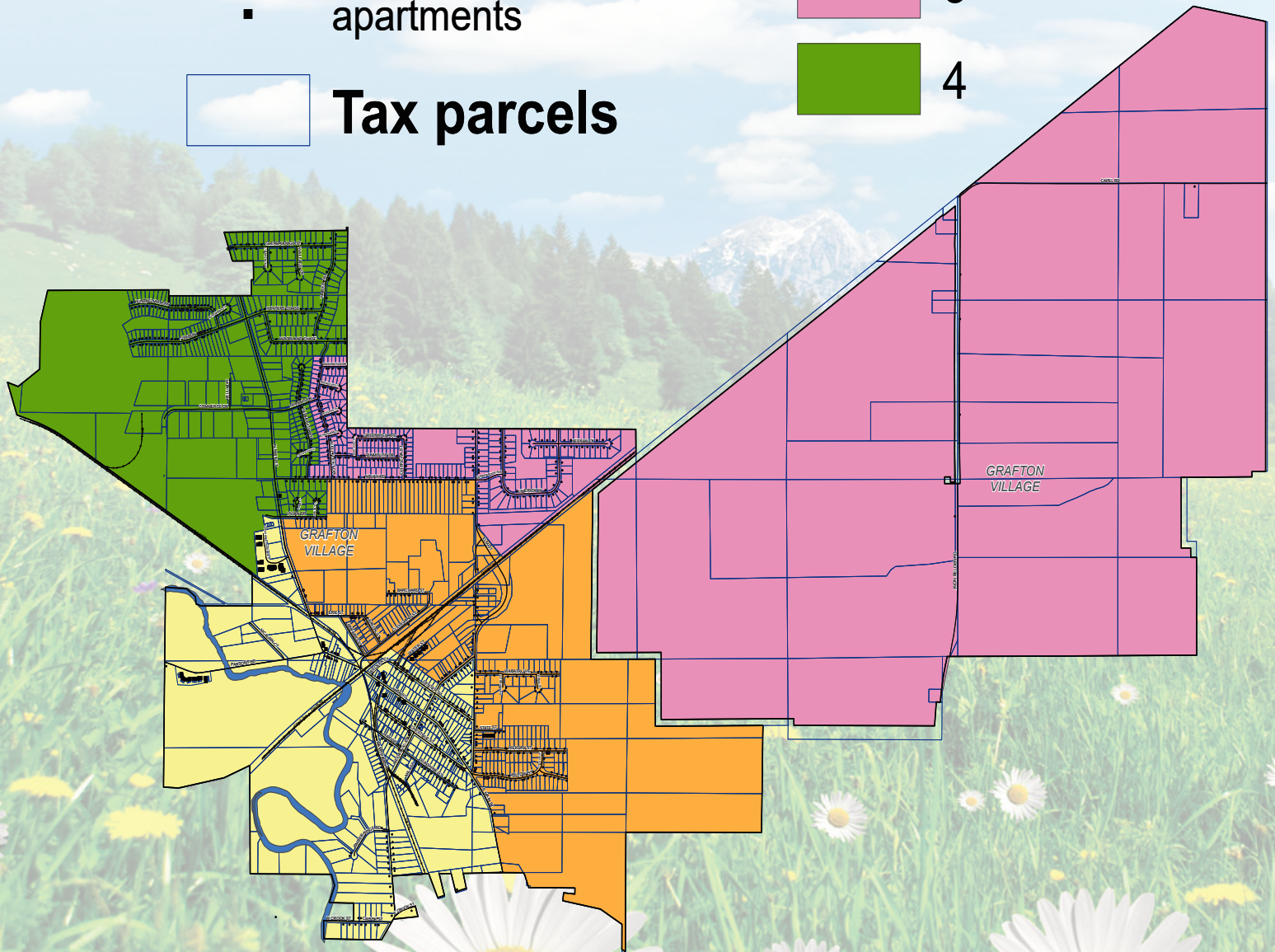
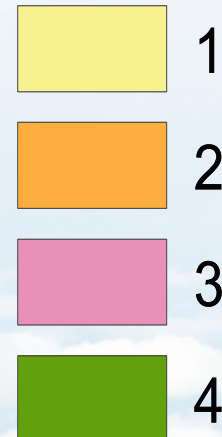
## Residential addresses

- 1 unit
- 2 unit
- apartments



**Tax parcels**

## New Wards





# Important Updates and News All Around Grafton!

**News You Need to Know!** This page contains your need-to-know information regarding valuable happenings and activities taking place. Please read below to learn more information.

## WARD LINES BEING REDRAWN THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY

Every 10 years, new Ward Lines are considered for being redrawn, and such is the case this year in our community, where new boundary lines will take effect later this year. While informative letters with the most up-to-date information will be forthcoming from the Lorain County Board of Elections, the Village has laid out some cursory information for you here. The last time that Ward lines were redrawn in the Village of Grafton was 2000, and our community has grown since then. Two Council seats will be impacted by the Ward 3 and Ward 4 reconfiguration, although lines are redrawn community-wide. We encourage you to see the map on the opposite Page 4 to see what the new lines will be, and that were adopted by Council on May 16th's regular meeting. The Village engaged longtime mapping and GIS professionals Triad Group, to assist with the proper geographic line and mapmaking. Please take note of these changes, see the map nearby, lookout for the Lorain County Board of Elections letter, and contact the Village with any questions.



*Congratulations Amy Barnhart on Your Retirement!*

## CONGRATULATIONS AMY BARNHART... ALL THE BEST IN RETIREMENT!

A steady presence in Village governance for the past 8 years has been the stewardship of Amy Barnhart, Village Clerk-Treasurer, who will be, who will be retiring at the end of this year. Amy has been a loyal servant of the Village, overseeing finances for Grafton. Amy has been responsible for keeping track of minutes for Council and Board meetings, helps fulfill public records requests, keeps track ordinances and resolutions, and oversees payroll. Amy also acts as the Human Resources official for the Village as well. Amy is a 35-year resident of the Village of Grafton, and has been married to her husband Jim, for 41 years. She plans on spending time with him during her retirement and traveling. The Village of Grafton heartily thanks Amy for her steadiness...her professionalism...and her care for this community. We wish her well in future endeavors and thank her for her service.


## VILLAGE OF GRAFTON FALL FESTIVAL: MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 7TH

Village of Grafton residents are encouraged to **PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR** for the annual Fall Festival to be held on Saturday, October 7th at Willow Park from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The LaGrange Engine Club will have their "old-time" vehicles on site as well as other displays. The Village is in the process of organizing a Farmers Market, Crafters and food Vendors for the festival. If you would like to participate in the Fall Festival, please complete the Craft and Farmer's Market Vendor form that can be found on the Village's website at [www.villageofgrafton.org](http://www.villageofgrafton.org) or call Town Hall at 926-2401 ext #2 for more information. All applications and fees must be submitted to Grafton Town Hall, 960 Main Street, Grafton, OH 44044. Yes, summertime is here, but this autumn event has fast become a resident-favorite in our community, and we want you to set aside some time for enjoy in this event.



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## Continued from Previous Pages... and Other Updates!

Continued phases of the Mechanic Street and Crook Street enhancements are underway. Phase 2 follows the 2021 Phase 1 construction of the watermain and hydrant replacements. Phase 2 included complete replacement of the **SANITARY SEWER** infrastructure including full blown replacement of the sewer main, replacement of all sanitary manholes and property laterals within the public right-of-way. Additional laterals were installed to serve township properties within the Grafton Sewer FPA. Significant **STORMWATER** improvements include a new 24" storm drainage infrastructure installed on both Mechanic Street and Crook Street serving all Village properties with each property receiving a storm lateral to be utilized by homeowners to manage their stormwater discharge. Parts of Chamberlin Road within the township were also connected within Grafton's stormwater system. All Village parcels received new driveway aprons and the project included community connectivity with the installation of new **SIDEWALKS** on both side of Mechanic Street and Crook Street, connecting Grafton's southeast residential neighborhood to Grafton's Downtown and Main Street. Completing the project will involve full **ROADWAY RESURFACING** of Mechanic Street and Crook Street and restoration and reseeded of front yards disturbed by the project

### VILLAGE OF GRAFTON BOARD MEMBERS PUBLIC SERVICE OPPORTUNITY:

The Mayor has the authority to appoint individuals to boards and commissions with the approval of Council. Village of Grafton Mayor DiVencenzo seeks to fill vacancies on both the Village's Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. The meetings are generally scheduled the third Tuesday of the month when needed. Duties for each board can be found in Article VII of the Village of Grafton charter under the American Legal link on the Village's website, [www.villageofgrafton.org](http://www.villageofgrafton.org). By Ordinance this is a **COMPENSATED VOLUNTEER** position where each board member is paid a set amount for each PC or BZA meeting attended. Please call 440-926-2401, extension 2 to submit your name for consideration. Thank you for your involvement in the planning of the "Grafton of Tomorrow." Please consider joining!



### VILLAGE OF GRAFTON "TRASH TO TREASURE"

Grafton's annual "Trash to Treasure" will be held on Saturday June 10th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This Village-wide garage sale is always popular and draws many visitors to the Village seeking personal treasures. Please mark your calendars and get ready to enjoy a fun day in the Village. For more information, please contact Town Hall at 440-926-2401.



# 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.



May						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2 Village Council Meeting 7:30 PM at Village Hall	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Happy Mother's Day	15	16 Village Council Meeting 7:30 PM at Village Hall	17	18	19	20 Beautify Grafton Event
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Happy Memorial Day! Parade at 12 noon	30	31	1	2	3

June						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6 Village Council Meeting 7:30 PM at Village Hall	7	8	9	10 Trash to Treasure Community Garage Sale 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
11	12	13	14 FLAG DAY	15	16	17
18 Happy Father's Day!	19	20 Village Council Meeting 7:30 PM at Village Hall	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

July						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 Celebrate Grafton Afternoon- Willow Park Fireworks at Dusk
2	3	4 Happy Birthday U.S.A.	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Village Council Meeting 7:30 PM at Village Hall	19 National Hotdog Day!	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

## Non-Emergency Contact Information

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

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**Elizabeth (Liz) Sauer**  
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**Patrick McCourt**  
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**Lynette Kitts**  
Ward 4 [lmkitts@villageofgrafton.org](mailto:lmkitts@villageofgrafton.org)

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

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

**Diana Kazmierczak** (440) 926-2401 opt. 2  
Village Secretary [djkazmierczak@villageofgrafton.org](mailto: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