



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,

As we officially enter the waning days of summer, while the warm temperatures likely won't soon depart, the smoothness of June, July, and August will slowly begin to slip through our community's civic fingers as the month continues. School in the Midview Local Schools begins on Tuesday, September 5th, which unofficially signals the onset of fall. The confluence of the seasons combine to stir up a significant blend of emotions during this time of year, wonderfully packed

with community pride, a swell of spirit for the new things taking place, with a firm comfort of our Village's heritage.

Grafton intends to be the Beacon of Lorain County. From a business and economic development standpoint, this means marketing Main Street as the central corridor for hometown commerce. Being the Beacon of Lorain County also means catering to our light industrial and manufacturing base throughout the community. On the periphery of the Village, Grafton has leveraged available land and the leadership of our elected officials to attract solar energy and more innovative forms of renewable energy. This vision to be the Beacon will continue.

As it relates to residential life, Grafton as a public entity will shine light on the many public infrastructure projects that enhance our quality of life. Making the Village more walkable has been evidenced in our dedication to sidewalks, improved thoroughfares, and street enhancements. Our parks have become

signature destination spots for families, summer concerts, and some of the more appealing community gatherings. Such was the case on Saturday, July 1st, when Grafton wished Happy Birthday to our nation with its Celebrate Grafton event hosted in Willow Park. Hundreds upon hundreds of guests packed the park to relax, unwind with quality rock music and bands, togetherness, fun, and camaraderie. Then, at dusk, the sky exploded with happiness, joy, and patriotism and we collectively honored our nation with fireworks.

The Village of Grafton mightily thanks the sponsors of this event. Your financial support allowed our Village to recognize our nation with a grand fireworks display. Your generosity is the heartbeat of our Village, and we thank you. When the leadership of our community called, the sponsors recognized the greater good and the emotion that such a celebration would evoke, and you delivered. Thank you all once again.

Inside this edition, readers will find a recap of some of the most important infrastructure projects that have recently been completed, those about to launch, and some significant opportunities in the future. Don't forget to consider your participation in our Memory Lane initiative, which you can read more about inside as well. Finally, our third annual Fall Fest will take place on Saturday, October 7th and is certain to prompt wonderful autumn fun and festivities. Be sure to mark your calendars!

Thank you for the privilege it is to serve as your Mayor!

David M. DiVencenzo
Mayor of Grafton



Village children enjoy cooling off in the splash pad at North Park!

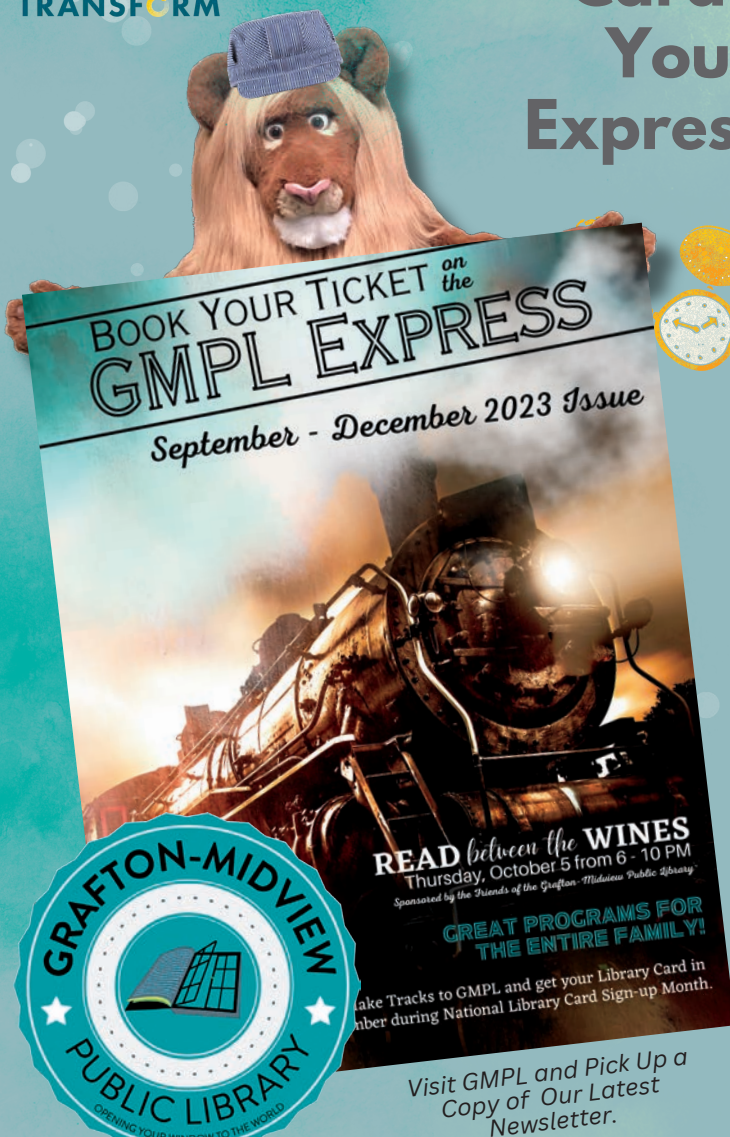


The streetscape in Downtown Grafton evokes glory and community pride!

BECAUSE A LIBRARY CARD IS YOUR TICKET TO THE WORLD.

LIBRARIES
TRANSFORM

September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month. Book Your Ticket on the GMPL Express and Get Your Library Card Today!



- Passport Services
- Notary Services
- Free Tax-Aide (February - April)
- Outdoor Locker Service 24/7
- Programs for ALL Ages
- Books, Audio Books, DVDs, CDs
- GMPL is Fine Free!
- Monthly Book Clubs
- FREE Coffee
- And much more!



Thursday, September 21, 8 AM - 8 PM

Connect
to a
Cause

Community Foundation of
LORAIN COUNTY

Please consider supporting the Grafton-Midview Public Library and other Lorain County causes on The Community Foundation's Connect to a Cause Day, Thursday, September 21, 2023! Learn how to get involved at peoplewhocare.org.



Library Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday	9:30 AM - 8 PM
Wednesday & Saturday	9:30 AM - 5 PM
Friday	9:30 AM - 6 PM
Sunday	1 PM - 5 PM
Labor Day - Memorial Day	

983 MAIN STREET
GRAFTON, OH 44044
440-926-3317
FAX: 440-926-3000
www.gmplibrary.org

Grafton News and Updates from Around Town

MEMORY LANE INITIATIVE AT WILLOW PARK TO COMMEMORATE LOVED ONES WITH TREE PLANTINGS

The Village of Grafton is happy to announce the continuation of a widely celebrated initiative that has helped to commemorate the love and life of a special someone for the residents of our community. Citizens are encouraged to celebrate the life of a loved one by planting a tree in Grafton Memory Lane at Willow Park. Throughout the fall, commemorative trees will be planted as a tribute to a loved one along the Willow Park driveway, so that all can be seen by those who pass through this restful area. Red maples, specifically, will feature the colors of vibrant red and deep purples and will be planted with a memorial plaque placed at the base of the tree. The cost of the tree and plaque is \$300.00. This is a wonderful opportunity to honor your loved one in a living memorial. Forms can be found on the Village's website, www.villageofgraffton.org or at Town Hall. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please call Town Hall at 440-926-2401 option 2. Please consider honoring your loved one by participating in the Grafton Memory Lane initiative.



Memory Lane at Willow Park will provide residents an opportunity to honor and recognize loved ones with a special tree planting.

GRAFTON RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO SIGN UP FOR LORAIN COUNTY WENS ALERTS

Citizens in Grafton are encouraged to sign up for WENS Emergency Alerts from Lorain County, as an easy method by which you can obtain notifications about weather-related changes, traffic re-routing messages, updates, and more urgent information. In addition, by signing up at the nearby link, residents will receive Lorain County emergency alerts and public service announcements. In the event of an emergency, an alert may be sent to the phone number(s) you provide and/or your email address. Alerts sent from Lorain County will originate from 69310 for text messages and (440) 328-2117 for voice notifications. Please be sure to save these in your phone book, once you sign-up, so that you are aware.

Go to this website to sign up for the Lorain County Emergency Alert system. Thank you for your help and awareness in advance!

https://entry.inspironlogistics.com/lorain_oh/wens.cfm



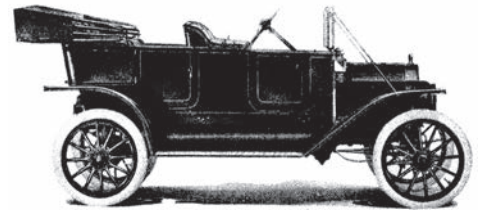
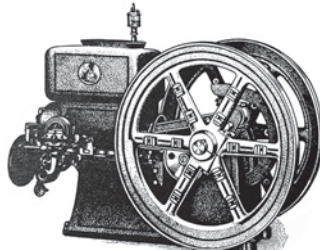
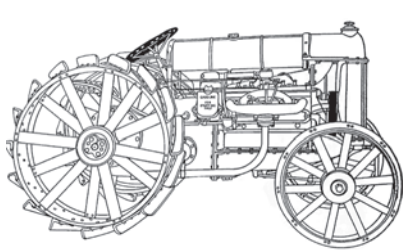
PLEASE BE SURE TO UPDATE YOUR UTILITY BILLING NOTIFICATIONS

In a systematic manner, the Village of Grafton is in the process of auditing the utility billing accounts as matter of public update and trying to improve the information which is available to all users. New account information is needed, such as current telephone number and e-mail address, in order to update the billing system. You can also sign-up to have your monthly utility bill emailed to you. Upon written request, the Village can also directly withdraw your monthly utility payment from your bank account. The purpose of this update is to purge old information, and to keep information that is available as updated as possible. Please check your utility bill for the form to update your contact information. If you have any questions, please contact the Utility Department at 440-926-2401 option 1.



Children enjoy North Park's Splash Pad during hot summer temperatures!

THIRD ANNUAL GRAFTON FALL FESTIVAL



Saturday, October 7th, 2023
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
(Music and Cruise-In!)**

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 Infrastructure Projects and Progress Being Made All Around Town

ENVISION GRAFTON PHASE II UNDERWAY AND PROGRESSING FORWARD

Residents in our community are certainly aware of the Envision Grafton initiative, which has helped to stimulate a major transformation among our downtown area over the last several years. With Main Street Phase I behind us, the community can expect Phase II to be conducted with similar candor, speed, and improvement for Grafton. This project includes increasing storm water capacity and adding yard drains on residential parcels for lower-lying areas. Curbs and gutters are being installed throughout the project as well. The parameters of the project are Main Street and Mechanic Street South to Willow Park. Another major aspect of this project is the re-alignment of Elm Street to Main Street in a complete 90 degree turn, along with the relocation of Willow Street and Main Street, making Willow Street a 90 degree turn as well. Essentially, this project eliminates the former 5-points crossing in Grafton, so that pedestrians and motorists can have appropriate periphery and visual sightlines. As has been reported in the past, funding from the project has come from the T.L.C.I. grant of N.O.A.C.A., Ohio Department of Transportation safety funds, monies from Ohio Public Works Commission and Village Funds. Finally, we will connect Willow Park with Reservoir Park to create the safest intersection possible, with sidewalk access, crosswalks, and rapid flash beacons. Thank you for your continued support of this project!



Envision Grafton Phase II is underway, building on the successes of Main Street's Phase I enhancements!



WASHINGTON DRIVE AND WOODLAND CHASE AREA UPGRADES WILL IMPROVE STREETS AND SAFETY

Continued infrastructure improvements are being made throughout the community in the neighborhoods as well, such as in the area of Washington Drive and Woodland Chase. With bid approval taking place at the July 18th meeting of Village Council, the community can expect the project to begin this fall. The need for such upgrades in this area are prompted by the need for a complete Water Line replacement as the driving force. In order to help accommodate such water line work, residents will see pavement improvements underway as well. Specifically, the Village will loop the line with Woodland Chase to reduce water system line hammering, and partial sidewalk replacements will take place as well. To accommodate safety vehicles, at the very end of Washington Drive and Woodland Chase, a large "T" will be integrated in order to permit emergency safety vehicles to turn around. Keep on the lookout for more updates of this important neighborhood project.

MECHANIC STREET AND CROOK STREET PROJECTS NOW COMPLETE!

The community can obtain a sense of civic pride in knowing that the Mechanic Street and Crook Street project is now successfully complete. All new sewers have been installed on Mechanic Street, just south of Railroad Street. In addition, Crook Street west of Mechanic Street has received new storm water and sanitary lateral lines. Every Village property has received benefits. In fact, the Village has done 7 Township parcels that were in our Federal Planning Authority, and will soon become part of our system.



Infrastructure improvements in the Mechanic and Crook Street areas are completed, including new sidewalks, drainage, and storm water and sanitary lines.

THANK YOU to our 2023 Celebrate Grafton Sponsors

The Village of Grafton would like to formally thank the generous sponsors and donors who helped to make the 2023 Celebrate Grafton event on Saturday, July 1st so special for our community. Your contributions and efforts ensure that Grafton is the most festive and patriotic place in our nation to celebrate our nation's birthday. Please join the Village in extending our appreciation to the following businesses, entities, and individuals.

CONCERT SPONSORS

GOODNESS GRACIOUS GRAFTON
QUALITY CONTROL INSPECTION, INC
CHECK PLEASE CAFÉ

PLATINUM SPONSORS

SHAMA EXPRESS, LLC
ROSS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.
WILLIS CNC, LLC

GOLD SPONSORS

GENERAL PLUG
SHAMROCK BUILDING
GLW BROADBAND, INC

SILVER SPONSORS

KLEINFELDER, INC
ANONYMOUS
MAS FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES, LLC
CUSTOM CHROME PLATING, INC
GRETCHEN HOLDERMAN
CLEVELAND CLINIC
EITRI FOUNDRY
THE FAUVER LAW FIRM
GRAFTON MOWER SERVICES, INC.
GPD GROUP
BECJER SIGNS
M.J. GRIFFITH PAVING, INC
DEAN DEPIERO
DAVID & PAT COFFMAN
GRAFTON V.F.W.

NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM AROUND THE COMMUNITY!

CELEBRATE GRAFTON TAKES PLACE TO COMMEMORATE OUR FREEDOM, HONOR NATION ON ITS BIRTHDAY

The afternoon and evening of Saturday, July 1st, was a festive day of patriotism and pride in the Village, as the Celebrate Grafton event took place from 2 p.m. until 10 p.m. when our glorious community was illuminated by fireworks. Rain early threatened to spoil the day, and unfortunately, our first of three invited guest bands had to be cancelled, but as the afternoon continued, the weather broke and opened the door to a wonderful evening. Two more bands played a variety of classic rock, country, and time-honored a treasures for park full of patriots. Food trucks supplied the necessary delectable treats and seasonal fare for the hundreds upon hundreds of participants in the evening. Then, at dusk around 10 p.m., a full display of aerial rocks, colorful fireworks, and dazzling displays entertained the crowded Willow Park to evoke national pride and American spirit. On a nearby page, readers will find the names of the sponsors who helped to make this fireworks event, supplied by American Fireworks, possible. Thank you to our sponsors, and to all those who participated.



Be sure to see information for this year's fall fest on Page 4 of this newsletter. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 7th!



Fall activities, food, items for purchase, music and a cruise-in await Grafton residents and businesses

EASTERLY SEWER PROJECT A FUTURE FOCUS AND PROACTIVE STEP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Easterly Sewer Project Interceptor is emerging as a priority for the Village on the far east side of our community, as a way for the first time to grant public sanitary sewer access for those on the east side of town. The project is being pursued in order to enhance economic development opportunities in and around the adjacent areas, since the Village owns approximately 800 acres of land designated for future commercial and industrial development. With an eye out for the future, the Village is hoping that making priority of these infrastructure projects will make this undeveloped location more attractive in the future. In fact, the Village has an application out for funding for this area. Specifically, officials are looking for \$1.9 million from the Economic Development Agency at the federal level and we are also looking for funding from other agencies. Grafton has also asked for approximately \$750,000 from the federal capital budget. Finally, with the combined funding attempts from the various federal economic development and budgeting outlets, Grafton is anticipating a partnership with the Lorain County Commissioners low or no-interest loan, potentially with forgiveness from the Lorain County Commissioners. We wish to thank the great attention from Team NEO and Jobs Ohio for helping to promote this project. Please stay tuned in the near future.

MILLING AND RE-PAVING OF ERIE, HURON, AND ONTARIO STREET TO BEGIN IN 2024!

As a way to continue enhancing neighborhood infrastructure to the best of our funding abilities, the Village of Grafton intends to go to bid in early 2024 for the purpose of repaving Erie, Huron, and Ontario Street. Doing such construction will be cost-beneficial, and will help restore traffic flow and improve overall roadway access.

NOVAK ROAD ENHANCEMENT

The Novak Road Corridor will be subject to a 3-Phase project, including sanitary sewer size improvement, from Novak to Elm Street. Over time, the curbs and gutters will be replaced on both sides of the road, along with the addition of sidewalks on both sides of the road. Utilities have already been completed. The total project cost will be \$4.2 million, and currently, Village officials have funding in place for the first phase, from approximately Main Street east to Wellfleet. Keep on the lookout for more updates on this project!

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
		1 Village Council Meeting 7:30 PM at Village Hall	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Midview Kiwanis Village Hall 12 – 1 PM	9 Purple Heart Day	10	11	12
13	14	15 Village Council Meeting 7:30 PM at Village Hall	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Midview Kiwanis Village Hall 12 – 1 PM	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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

★ ★ ★ October ★ ★ ★						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Village Council Meeting 7:30 PM at Village Hall	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Midview Kiwanis Village Hall 12 – 1 PM	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 Village Hall 12 – 1 PM	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween Trick or Treat 6 p.m.				

Non-Emergency Contact Information

David DiVencenzo Mayor	(440) 926-2401 opt. 5 dmdivencenzo@villageofgrafton.org
Tim Strah Council at Large	Timstrah@villageofgrafton.org
Matthew Dukles Ward 1	madukles@villageofgrafton.org
Elizabeth (Liz) Sauer Ward 2	easauer@villageofgrafton.org
Patrick McCourt Ward 3	pmccourt@villageofgrafton.org
Lynette Kitts Ward 4	lmkitts@villageofgrafton.org
Amy Barnhart Clerk-Treasurer	(440) 926-2401 opt. 3 arbarnhart@villageofgrafton.org
Joe Price Village Administrator	(440) 926-2401 opt. 4 jbprice@villageofgrafton.org
Diana Kazmierczak Village Secretary	(440) 926-2401 opt. 2 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