



The Village of **GRAFTON**

VillageofGrafton.org



State of the Village *March 2023*

**Looking back on a year like no other...
And forward to the opportunities ahead**

A Year in Review

www.VillageofGrafton.com

A Message from Mayor David DiVencenzo



Mayor David DiVencenzo
and his wife, Marlita

To the wonderful citizens of Grafton, with great enthusiasm, and a sincere sense of pride, the Village of Grafton is delighted to share with you the beginning of the 7th year of constructively communicating the positive stories about all the our community has to offer its residents and its corporate entities.

As the beacon of Lorain County, during this time frame, we have all experienced the joy our civic family

experiences when together. Our dynamic small town packs a wallop of activity, economy, togetherness, and pride. From events, services, opportunities, upgrades, enhancements, and more, I along with Council, remain dedicated to making the Village of Grafton among the finest places to live, work, visit, and raise a family in all of Northeast Ohio. With your help and support, we are making good on this vision. Thank you for who you are, and all you do.

Annual State of the Village Presentation: March 7th, 2023

Grafton's annual State of the Village event took place on Tuesday, March 7th and has become our unofficial kickoff to the new year. Devotedly held at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, a record turnout of supporters participated in the yearly gathering now transformed into one of the events to characterize the series of camaraderie-filled activities that bring our community together during the calendar year. An information-packed power point presentation was delivered that shared upgrades and various types and highlights from the last 12 months. More than 150 individuals enjoyed breakfast provided by Check Please Café which included crispy bacon, juicy fruit, and piping hot coffee. Handshakes, smiles, hugs, greetings of all shapes and sizes filled the room to such a great extent, that one could almost feel the grandiose community connection. Much of the information contained within the power point presentation has been truncated and appears throughout the pages of this publication, and we certainly encourage you to review in detail.



Success, Safety, Support... Looking Back on the Last 12 Months!

Recapping the last twelve months in the Village of Grafton should make the community beam with collective optimism. Many infrastructure projects were completed which were designed to enhance our daily lives in the Village. Primarily, Phase I of the Downtown Main Street areas was completed ahead of schedule and on budget. Motorists have undoubtedly taken note of the resurfaced Route 57 Corridor, the new lighting, the enhanced connectivity opportunities, the rear-load parking, new landscaping, bump outs and more. This flagship project was joined with a number of other capital improvements that took place in the Village as well, and that readers can learn more about in the following pages. New businesses opened and flourished, including the Village Creamery, and others are set to open in the coming weeks and months. Our safety fleet was enhanced and so too was our electric bandwidth as a service provider. We had success... we improved our ability to keep people safe... and we enjoyed your support. Not bad, for a year's worth of work... not bad at all!

Thank you for the joy and responsibility it is to serve as your Mayor. Along with Council, and administrative team, the Village of Grafton is as fine a location as any that I can imagine. The teamwork and love makes a powerful combination, and one truly reflective of our wonderful community.

Sincerely,

Mayor David M. DiVencenzo



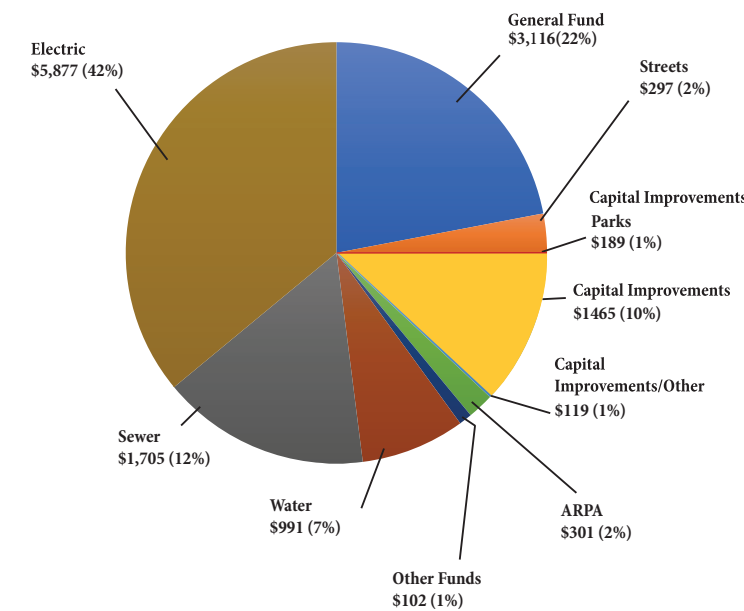
Village Finances

The calendar year of 2022 was a significant year for the Village of Grafton in terms of finances. As required by State Statute, the Village produces a series of reports that are all posted on the Village website. Below you will find a sequence of charts and graphs that should help residents to obtain an accurate overview of the Village finances from one year to the next.

**All dollar amounts in increment of \$1,000*

ACTUAL TOTAL REVENUES

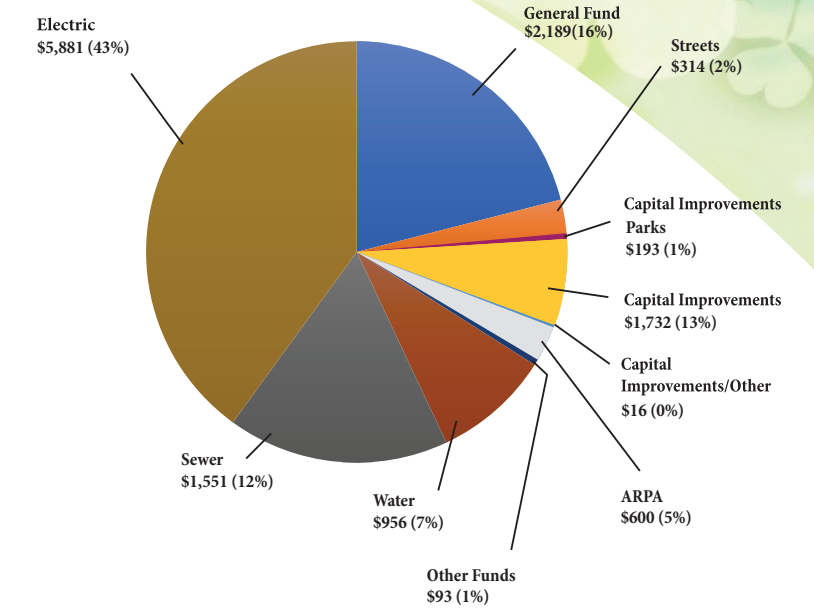
(through December 2022)



TOTAL REVENUES - \$14,152,000

ACTUAL TOTAL EXPENSES

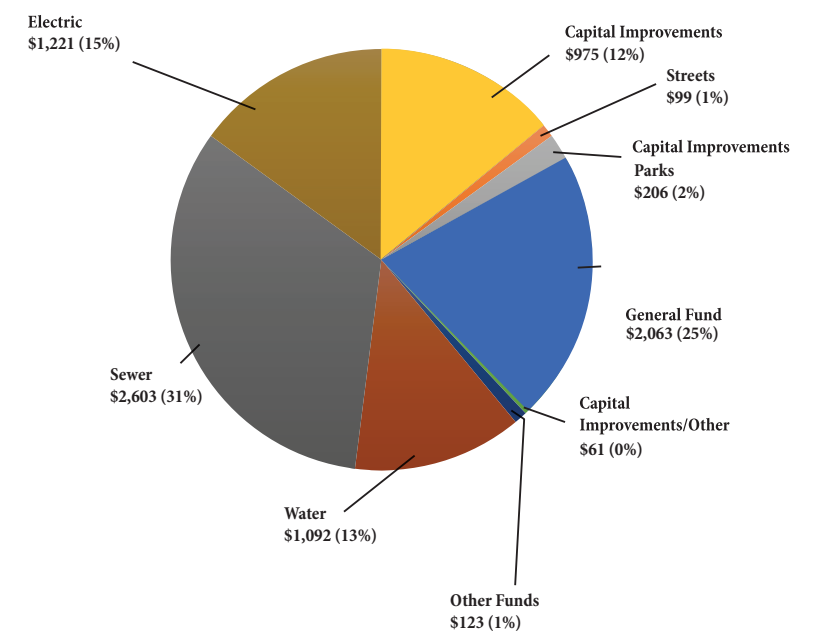
(through December 2022)



TOTAL EXPENSES - \$13,525,000

FUND TOTAL BALANCES

(through December 2022)



TOTAL FUND BALANCE = \$8,443,000



Main Street Grafton Phase I COMPLETED!

A New Thoroughfare with New Pedestrian and Motorist Experience...

Throughout the Village of Grafton, of all the many infrastructure upgrades and enhancements performed, perhaps among the most significant is the Main Street Grafton ongoing project, for which Phase I is now completed. Despite the winter months, motorists and pedestrians alike have experienced the changes. And those changes serve to better suit the long-term needs of our beloved community. From above the street, to street-level, and even below the surface, many capital improvements have brought us to this stage. Now with the early stages of Phase II already underway, from Mechanic Street to the corporation limit, the Village of Grafton looks back at the first phase of this project with pride. This page will share some of those highlights with the community.

Project Overview



Envision Grafton Main Street Phase I was completed largely in 2022 with rear load parking, new infrastructure and new lighting.

Phase I officially kicked off in May 2022, after the necessary pre-construction meetings were conducted combining a cross section of Village officials, representatives from Fabrizi Trucking Construction, members of the engineering team, and our inspection team at QCI to review and finalize the very last details of the project. This scope of this phase included sections of Main Street from Erie Street to Mechanic Street, including new roadway surface, curbs and gutters, reverse angle parking, trees and green space, and bump outs for landscaping. Despite the project's unfolding, disruption to resident and business-life was minimized to the best of the Village's ability. Crosswalks were enhanced for safety and connectivity purposes. The rear-load parking was introduced for safety purposes, and thus far, has seemed to work effectively.

New Lighting Gives a Visual Enhancement

One aspect through which residents have seen the forward-thinking approach of Village leaders has been in the lighting, and how it will create a positive ambiance 12 months out of the year. The Village pursued string lighting which runs parallel with the street, a concept inspired by a visit in 2022 by Village leaders to Bellevue, Ohio. We hope residents enjoy the way this looks and the new experience it entails for pedestrians and motorists.

Thank you to Ohio Rail Development Commission and CSX

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.

Our leadership team, including Linda Bales, Joe Price, our Village Council and more are to be thanked for identifying funding sources, planning, leading and managing this project. Special thanks to this team!



Special thanks to the Ohio Rail Commission and CSX for their help with this clever crosswalk.



Hiveclass

Active Screentime

Hiveclass is the Digital Encyclopedia for youth sports training, a platform that makes it easy for families to access high-quality bite-sized educational videos on various sports and activities.

Whether exploring a new hobby, searching for additional instruction, or looking to increase activity levels, Hiveclass provides various options for all.

Use Your GMPL card and visit our website to log in! Need a card? Get a digital card from our website today.



We're thrilled to be the first Ohio library to bring this new digital resource to our community

Check it out for yourself!

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Sub Station Upgrade

Grafton 69kV to 12kV Main Substation



The substation enhancement will provide sustainability, efficiency, and greater capacity for Village residents and business for years to come!

While the Sub Station upgrade was scheduled to get underway in 2022, several important conflicts emerged during the calendar year which actually benefits the Village. During the second quarter of 2023 the contractor will return to complete the major upgrade, which when finished will be approximately \$3.7 million and provide for the long-term sustainability and reliability of our electric power. In addition, this sub station upgrade will also provide extra capacity for future growth. The Substation enhancements will improve output from 4KV's to 12KV's. The Village of Grafton has been excited to be partnered with Westfield Electric on this project, and thanks American Municipal Power for the line of credit extended to the Village for this upgrade.

Parks and Connectivity is Alive and Well in Grafton!

Also during the calendar year 2022, Reservoir Park experienced a major upgrade, and provided residents throughout the community with an enhanced connectivity experience. A grand all-purpose walking trail has been installed around the entire perimeter of the reservoir, for the purpose of adjoining various areas of town, fitness and providing safe access to the residents for fishing in the reservoir. Utilizing the ball diamonds, walking the reservoir with a scenic and stable trail head, and fishing are just a few among many activities that can be enjoyed at Reservoir Park nowadays. Best of all, there are plans underway currently to make the new walking trail connect to a crosswalk, that will ultimately lead to Willow Park, across Route 57, with the intent that these two southern-end-of-town parks can be connected for residents to enjoy in the future. Thank you to everyone who helped play a role in making this connectivity effort possible!

Waste Water Administration Building, Up and Running in 2022

The Village's new Waste Water Treatment Plant Administration Facility got up and running in 2022, and includes office space for personnel and other various employee facility needs. In the back is a 25 foot x 45 foot workshop area for repairs. There is a 60 foot x 45 foot storage and maintenance area. Some of the unique features are a sanitary/grease separator to help meet EPA requirements, in order to separate sludge materials during the handling process. This new facility benefits all and keeps the service and efficiency high, while creating a better work environment for some of the needed tasks associated with the important job of properly and safely handling our waste water.



The Waste Water Administration Building is helping efficiency and effectiveness!

ISSUE 4 IS NOT A NEW TAX

KEEP OUR FUTURE BRIGHT

MAY 2ND TO SUPPORT MIDVIEW LOCAL SCHOOLS

SCAN TO REGISTER TO VOTE!

***Paid for by Funding the Future PO Box 187 Grafton, OH 44044**

Village Projects on the Horizon for Upcoming Year 2023

The Village of Grafton will continue with its intent and focus on capital improvements during the upcoming year 2023. As has been the case with this administration over the last 7 years, infrastructure is the investment that pays dividends for generations to come. The upcoming year will be no different than in year's past. We will continue to go full-steam-ahead with the following projects below.

Mechanic/Crook Street Upgrade

This project is an exciting one as it features many new infrastructure components and will include resurfacing, replacement of the sanitary sewer system, increasing capacity in the storm system from 12" to 24" and will include sidewalks and a final mill and fill. The originally scheduled time of completion was September, but has the potential to be completed by Memorial Day due to favorable weather conditions from which we have all benefitted the past several weeks. One interesting aspect of this project is that the initiative was originally bid for 2022, and came in way over budget due to escalating supply costs. Wisely and responsibly, Council had it rebid at a more favorable time, saving it around \$400,000 in total costs, coming down from \$1.6 million to \$1.2 million. Stay tuned for more information.

Envision Grafton Phase II Main Street Project

As was reported earlier in this publication, Phase I. has been widely and popularly received throughout the community. Fortunately, there is a Phase II., which has been planned for and prepared, and is currently underway. This will include the final phase of the downtown renovation, and extend from Mechanic Street to Willow Park, and will feature a variety of new upgrades such as reconstructed curb and gutters, electrical line relocation, new connectivity to the parks, an increase in storm water efficiency and a mill to resurface the pavement. This project in all of its phases has been guided by parameters established as part of a Northeast Ohio Area Coordinating Agency study and T.L.C.I. funding. The Ohio Public Works Commission and ODOT Safety funding has helped represent approximately 80% of costs through grants. Residents will begin to see the fruits of this project in the very near future.

Washington Drive Water Line Replacement

The Washington Drive Water Line Replacement Project is another significant infrastructure initiative that will benefit a selected area of town. Expected to be rebid later in 2023, this needed upgrade includes a water line replacement, partial pavement replacement in various sections, as well as apron replacements. Once again, selected sidewalk replacements will be identified and completed as well. The Village has received permanent easement at the end of Washington Drive and Woodland Chase, to allow Village to install emergency turnaround lanes. The total cost of this project is approximately \$600,000.

Veterans Memorial Update

The Veterans Memorial Project continues to move ahead. Some updates include the fact that land will be donated, which will help to offset the cost. While the original cost of the project was \$225,000, thus far, community supporters have raised approximately \$215,000 or 85% funds needed have been raised. This is an incredibly generous total, and we thank all! More information will be coming in the future.



MIDVIEW LOCAL SCHOOLS

SUBSTITUTE LEVY INFORMATION

ON THE MAY 2, 2023 BALLOT

ISSUE #4

SUBSTITUTE LEVY AT A GLANCE



ISSUE #4



MAY 2, 2023



NOT A NEW TAX



GENERATES \$6.2 MILLION

COMBINED RENEWAL

EMERGENCY LEVY
PASSED: MARCH 2012
GENERATES: \$1.6 MILLION
EXPIRES: END OF 2023

EMERGENCY LEVY
PASSED: FEBRUARY 2013
GENERATES: \$4.6 MILLION
EXPIRES: END OF 2023



SUBSTITUTE LEVY

ON THE BALLOT: MAY 2023
GENERATES: \$6.2 MILLION
YEARS EFFECTIVE: 10 YEARS
NOT A NEW TAX

FINANCIAL HISTORY TIMELINE

1993
NEW MONEY
PASSED

In November 1993, Midview passed a 5-year emergency levy. This was renewed every 5 years through 2012.

The emergency levy initially passed in 1993 was renewed.

1997
RENEWAL
PASSED

2002
RENEWAL
PASSED

The 1993 emergency levy was again renewed.

Again, Midview residents voted to renew the 1993 emergency levy.

2007
RENEWAL
PASSED

2012
RENEWAL
PASSED

The 1993 emergency levy was renewed for a new period of 10 years.

A new 10-year emergency levy was passed for the district.

2013
NEW MONEY
PASSED

2022
SUBSTITUTE
FAILED

With the 2012 and 2013 emergency levies expiring at the end of 2023, Midview placed a substitute levy on the ballot for a combined renewal.

Although the Nov. 2022 substitute levy failed, the district's need for operating funds did not go away. To address the need, Midview is placing the renewal back on the ballot.

2023
SUBSTITUTE
MAY 2
ISSUE #4

GET THE FACTS



midviewk12.org/o/district/page/levy-information

Village of Grafton "Tidbits" and Important News Items from Around Town!

WELCOME TO GRAFTON!

The Village would like to congratulate Goodness Gracious, a boutique clothing and variety store which has opened on Route 57, as well as The Nueve Mescal, which has opened on the west side of Route 57 as well. Grafton is open for business, and when these entities decide to relocate new operations to our community, we welcome them with open arms and with great pride. Thank you for choosing Grafton!

HOME TOWN HEROES BANNERS AND MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Those interested in having Hometown Heroes Banners can contact Amy Barnhart for 2023.

If you know of someone who served in the armed services, and would like to honor that individual, this has become a widely popular way to do so. Our Village loves its veterans, and desires to commemorate them in this fashion. Please call Amy today, and secure your Home Town Heroes banner.



Keep LORAIN COUNTY BEAUTIFUL...

On Saturday, May 20th, Lorain County will be celebrating "Keep Lorain County Beautiful," a day characterized with springtime, new life, rebirth and glorious beautification. An effort will commence in Grafton where volunteers will help to spread mulch, pull weeds, plant flowers, and enliven our properties. Be sure to see more information online at our website!

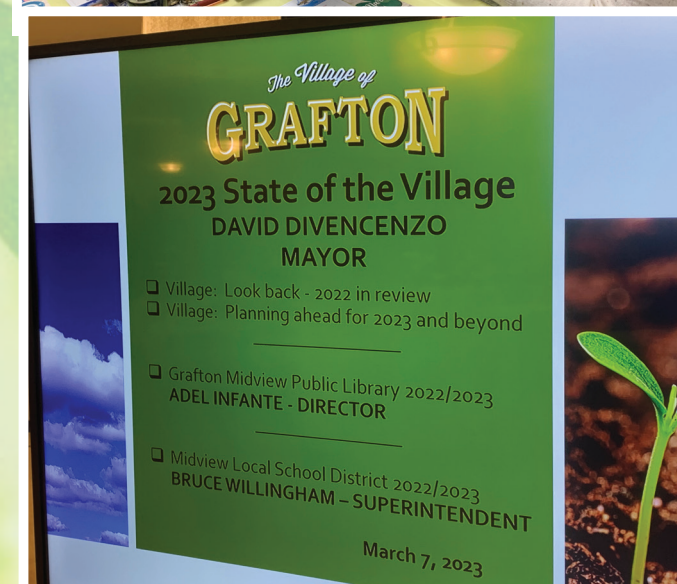


OLD FASHION CHRISTMAS 2023 PLANNING AND PREP UNDERWAY!

With the continued success of Old Fashioned Christmas, Main Street Grafton, its sponsoring organization intends for the 2023 celebration to be even bigger and even better. Any business in the Grafton area can and should participate in becoming a member of Main Street Grafton, regardless of whether or not they are located in Downtown. Any business can participate and become a member of this awesome organization. The theme for 2023 is Grafton Polar Express Old Fashioned Christmas, and all of the traditional family favorites will be there, including Santa at the Library, the train conductor roaming Downtown, and musical entertainment at the Gazebo. Main Street Grafton is also on the lookout for items and materials for this year's event, along with businesses who are willing to join our organization. If interested in participating, or becoming a members, please contact Tami Mullins at tmullins@gmplibrary.org.

OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

During the evening of Friday, December 2nd, from 6 – 8 p.m. the community of Grafton came to life in a seasonal sense with the continuation of the Old Fashioned Christmas festival. Sponsored by Main Street Grafton, an organization dedicated to the community's welfare and promoting the economic entities along the Main Street corridor, residents had the chance to visit with Santa, and the old Grafton School as well. People were regaled with festive outfits, wreaths, calico and glass, and had crafts, games and more. The grinch was even spotted at one point during the evening too, a fun and sneaky way for all participants to smile and enjoy time together. We'll be back once again in December this coming year, so please stay on the lookout for more information.



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.



MARCH 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
		Council Meeting Village Hall 7:30 p.m.				
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Daylight Savings Begins					Saint Patrick's Day	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	First Day of Spring	Council Meeting Village Hall 7:30 p.m.				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

APRIL 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						April Fool's Day 1
					Good Friday	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Easter		Council Meeting Village Hall 7:30 p.m.	12	13	14	15
						Earth Day
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		Council Meeting Village Hall 7:30 p.m.	26	27	28	29
30						

MAY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					Cinco de Mayo	
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Council Meeting Village Hall 7:30 p.m.				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Mother's Day						Keep Lorain County Beautiful
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		Council Meeting Village Hall 7:30 p.m.				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Memorial Day					
28	29	30	31			

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