

THE QUARTERLY MESSENGER



GRAFTON
QUALITY LIFE. NATURALLY.

December 2011

Dear Citizens,

As we move into the Holiday season and the close to another successful year, I would like to take a few minutes to reflect on some highlights from 2011.

Despite the general economic challenges facing the many communities, Grafton continues to grow and add value. New construction-related property value added as of the first of 2011 enabled all Village property taxpayers to maintain a flat tax rate for 2012. We continue to see new construction value into 2012, including the total renovation of the Grafton Hotel and completion of the new Gauthier Biomedical facility. Aurora Health Care is in the midst of construction of a new Cancer Center that will also be completed in 2012. The east side regional retail area is starting to draw renewed development interest and projects have been proposed in both South Commercial and Downtown business districts. The Community Development Authority, Plan Commission and Village Board along with Economic Development for Grafton's Enhancement (EDGE) and the Chamber of Commerce all continue to work together to promote new and existing businesses.

Our business community is also the main resource of funding for community events. GALA has had another successful outdoor concert season and is in the middle of their indoor concerts. Information can be found on GALA's website. The Grafton Blues Association added a new event this year downtown called Lucky Street Music Festival along with their annual Paramount Blues Festival. Celebrate Grafton also added a new event this year, Grillin' in Grafton. This first time event was a Kansas City BBQ Society sanctioned event, bringing professional grillers from around the region to compete at a professional level. The event was a success and is a great addition to the portfolio of events Celebrate Grafton sponsors, including the Giro d' Grafton professional bike race, Holidaze 4th of July festival and Pumpkin Fest. Congratulations and thank you to all the members of these organizations and to all other volunteers that bring activity and vitality to our community.

Moving from community events to Village activities, I would like to relate how changes at the State level have affected Grafton. As most of you are aware, changes in the collective bargaining laws of public employee unions have had an effect at local level. Dramatic cuts in state shared revenue have been offset by increased contributions in health insurance and retirement programs by Village employees. Though these changes have had significant impacts in how Grafton does business, your Village Board and Administration have made adjustments in personnel policies and programs that are more reflective of private sector businesses. The Village Board will continue to respond to the needs of the community and make further adjustments in this time of transition. As mentioned earlier, the Village Board has completed the budget cycle for 2012 and has been able to maintain an assessed tax rate with no increases. Although, we face continual reduction in state aid along with increases in fuel and insurance costs, to name a few, the goal will continue to focus on balance of providing public services against the cost of those services.

In closing the Village Board and staff continue to strive to provide those services and programs that reflect our brand – Quality Life. Naturally.

I wish you the best during this Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Thank you,



Jim Brunnquell
Village President

QR CODES

Sign-up to be notified of current events, job postings, and agenda notifications. Download the free code reader at www.getscanlife.com. Then scan this code. No smartphone? See it at www.QualityLifeGrafton.com.



SPRING ELECTION NEWS

The spring election will be held on Tuesday, April 3, 2012, in the John Long Middle School gymnasium, 700 Hickory Street. Voters will have the opportunity to elect the following Village officials:

VILLAGE TRUSTEES, 3-seats available for 2-year terms, to be elected at large, to succeed the following Board members whose terms expire on April 17, 2012:

Susan Meinecke
David Liss
Lisa Uribe-Harbeck

Candidate information packets and Nomination Papers are available in the Village Clerk's Office located at Grafton Village Hall, 860 Badger Circle, Grafton, WI, daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The first day to circulate nomination papers is Thursday, December 1, 2011. Nomination papers must be received in the Clerk's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

If a primary is necessary, it will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2012.

Note: Nomination papers are also available from the Government Accountability Board – Elections Division website at: <http://gab.wi.gov>.

EVERY VOTE COUNTS – BE SURE YOURS IS INCLUDED.

WINTER PARKING

Winter parking rules go into effect on December 1, until April 1. There is 30 minute parking on all village streets from 2:00 a.m. until 7:00 a.m. No parking is allowed during a snow emergency. The fine for a parking violation is \$20 and increases to \$50 after 60 days. If you have a special need for having a vehicle parked on the street, you may call the police station for one night permission. If snow is not forecast, permission may be granted.

SNOW & ICE REMOVAL

Snow and ice removal from sidewalks by property owners is required by Village Ordinance. Snow and ice **MUST** be removed by 10:00 p.m. of the day following the snowfall. **Snow may NOT be thrown, blown, or plowed into or across the roadway.**

The penalty for not removing snow and ice is \$50 - \$200, plus the cost of prosecution for each offense.

SERVICE ANNIVERSARY

From October 2011 through December 2011, the following employees observed a significant service anniversary.

Employee	Position	Years
Theodore Salkowski	Crossing Guard	5
Lisa Mulcahy	Library Assistant I	10
Melinda Weidman	Library Assistant I	5

HOLIDAY HOURS

In observation of the Christmas and New Year Holidays, the Municipal Offices will be **closed** the following days:

Friday, December 23, 2011
Friday, December 30, 2011

Monday, December 26, 2011
Monday, January 2, 2012



WISCONSIN'S NEW VOTER PHOTO ID LAW

Voter Photo ID is now the law in Wisconsin. Starting at the February 2012 election, voters will be required to show a photo ID in order to receive a ballot and vote.

What IDs are acceptable?

- A Wisconsin DOT-issued driver license
- A Wisconsin DOT-issued identification card
- An identification card issued by a U.S. uniformed service
- A U.S. passport

(Identifications above must be unexpired, or if expired, have expired after the date of the most recent general election (November 2, 2010).



- A certificate of naturalization that was issued not earlier than two years before the date of an election at which it is presented
- An unexpired driving receipt issued by Wisconsin DOT.
- An unexpired identification card receipt issued by Wisconsin DOT.
- An identification card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin
- An unexpired identification card issued by a Wisconsin-accredited university or college that contains the following:
 - Date of Issuance
 - Signature of Student
 - Expiration date not later than two years after Date of Issuance

How do I get a free photo ID to vote?

Wisconsin law requires the Department of Transportation to provide free ID cards to any individual who will be at least 18 years of age on the date of the next election and who requests a free ID for the purpose of voting. The regular fee is \$28.

For information about getting a state identification card, please visit the DOT's website:

<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/drivers/apply/idcard.htm>

Due to the need to provide a birth certificate and other documents to receive a DOT-issued ID, individuals should start the process of obtaining a statutory identification well in advance of an election at which they wish to vote.

What happens if a voter refuses to sign the poll list?

Beginning in 2012, voters will be required to sign the poll list prior to receiving a ballot. If the voter refuses to sign the poll list, a ballot shall not be issued.

Does the municipal clerk need to make a copy of the photo ID during in-person absentee voting?

No. The voter must only show the photo ID to the municipal clerk.

INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE NEAR FUTURE ON WARD CHANGES RESULTING FROM THE RECENT REDISTRICTING.



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TAX PAYMENT OPTIONS

Please read these instructions carefully to avoid problems in making a timely tax payment.

The tax bill that you receive in the mail in December will be the only bill you will receive. No additional reminder bills will be sent. The new bill will have tear-off stubs should you elect to pay in installments. Please include a stub with each payment that you make. This will help insure that your payment will be applied to your tax bill properly. Tax bills will not be mailed to lending institutions on mortgaged properties. If you have an escrow account, it is your

responsibility to contact your lending institution to make the necessary arrangements for the payment of the taxes. The official U.S. postmark will determine whether your payment is timely if paid by mail. **A receipt will not be mailed unless a self-addressed stamped envelope is included with your payment.**

OPTION 1: FULL PAYMENT

Under this option, full payment must be made on or before January 31, 2012. All personal property taxes, special assessments, and special charges appearing on the bill must be paid in full on or before January 31, 2012.

OPTION 2: INSTALLMENT PAYMENT

Under this option, the first installment must be made on or before January 31, 2012. The amount of the first installment shall be, at a minimum, the sum of all special assessments and special charges and one half of the real property taxes, less any lottery credit and first dollar credit. An additional 25 percent of the real property taxes will be due on or before March 31, 2012, with the remaining balance (25 percent) due on May 31, 2012. If the first installment of real property taxes is not paid on or before January 31, 2012, the entire amount of the remaining unpaid balance is delinquent as of February 1. If the second or any subsequent installment payment is not paid by the due date specified, the entire amount of the unpaid balance is delinquent with interest and penalty calculated from February 1.

VILLAGE HALL LOCATION AND HOURS

860 Badger Circle

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

CLOSED

December 23, 26, 30, and January 2

Taxes may be paid at Village Hall, Bank Mutual, Cornerstone Community Bank, Harris Bank, or Port Washington State Bank. If business hours are inconvenient for you, a drop box is located in the parking lot on the east side of Village Hall. Any payment placed in the Village Hall drop box before midnight will be credited for that business day.

If you are paying with an escrow check, remember all individuals listed as co-payees must endorse the check. If your escrow check exceeds the amount of taxes due, a refund check will be mailed to you in approximately five working days from date of payment if you pay your taxes at Village Hall.

If your escrow check is larger than your tax bill, you may make payment at one of the banks to receive an immediate refund.

Please visit the Village website at www.QualityLifeGrafton.com for additional information regarding tax rates and how the Village utilizes your tax dollars for the Village portion of your tax bill.

TAX PAYMENT LOCATIONS AND HOURS

For your convenience, your tax bill(s) may be paid at the locations listed below and at Village Hall, 860 Badger Circle. Village Hall hours are 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. **Village Hall will be closed December 23, 26, 30, and January 2.**

When paying your taxes at any of the banks, present your copy of your tax bill to identify the appropriate account. All banks are closed Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2.

	Grafton Lobby / 2030 Wisconsin Street / 262-375-2121			
	Monday - Thursday	9:00	a.m.	- 5:00 p.m.
	Friday	9:00	a.m.	- 6:00 p.m.
	Saturday	9:00	a.m.	- 12:00 Noon

	Grafton Lobby / 2090 Wisconsin Avenue / 262-375-9150			
	Monday - Thursday	9:00	a.m.	- 5:00 p.m.
	Friday	9:00	a.m.	- 6:00 p.m.
	Saturday	9:00	a.m.	- 12:00 Noon

	Grafton Lobby / 101 Falls Road / 262-377-5511			
	Monday - Thursday	9:00	a.m.	- 5:00 p.m.
	Friday	9:00	a.m.	- 6:00 p.m.
	Saturday	9:00	a.m.	- 12:00 Noon
	Grafton Lobby / 1200 Washington Street / 262-377-4000			
	Monday - Friday	9:00	a.m.	- 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00	a.m.	- 12:00 Noon	

 <i>Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow... Since 1899</i>	Grafton Lobby / 2080 Washington Street / 262-375-0100			
	Monday - Friday	9:00	a.m.	- 6:00 p.m.
	Saturday	9:00	a.m.	- 12:00 Noon

PAYMENTS BY CREDIT CARD

The Village of Grafton has contracted with Official Payments to offer customers the option of paying their taxes by credit card. Payments can be made at www.officialpayments.com. Official Payments Corp. does **charge a convenience fee** for this service. The convenience fee is based on the dollar amount of the taxes that are paid.



The Village has also contracted with Nationwide Payment Solutions (MuniciPAY) to collect payment by credit card at Village Hall. MuniciPAY does **charge a convenience fee** for this service. The convenience fee is based on the dollar amount of the taxes that are paid.



WHAT YOU GET FOR YOUR VILLAGE TAX DOLLARS

Where do my Village tax dollars go? About a third of your total property tax payment (31 percent) is used to pay for all Village of Grafton provided services. Budgets of other taxing jurisdictions, including Ozaukee County, Grafton School District, Cedarburg School District, Milwaukee Area Technical College, and the State of Wisconsin also impact your taxes. Costs shown are based on a home value of \$250,000. This home would pay \$1,610 for its Village of Grafton services. Figures are based on the 2012 adopted Village of Grafton Budget and the portion of the budget supported by property taxes net of other sources of revenue.

Police Protection. Twenty-two sworn police officers and six telecommunicators keep Grafton safe around the clock. Activities include traffic enforcement, crime investigation and education programs.	\$ 635
Public Works / Engineering. Includes maintenance programs such as storm sewer maintenance, pothole patching, street cleaning, snow removal, flood control, street painting and weed cutting. The Engineering Division provides for design, maintenance and rehabilitation of infrastructure and community facilities.	\$ 211
Debt Service. Includes debt payments for prior year capital projects. Types of projects include the Wisconsin Avenue Reconstruction project, infrastructure improvements, and facility construction and improvements.	\$ 156
General Government / Administrative Services. This includes the following program areas: Village Board, Village Administration, Legal, Assessing, Clerk, and Finance.	\$ 118
Capital Improvement Projects. Includes streets, curbs, gutters, storm sewers, sidewalks, and replacement of Department of Public Works and Police Department vehicles and equipment.	\$ 114
Library. The U.S.S. Liberty Memorial Public Library is funded by the Village and Town of Grafton. Books, videos, DVDs, Internet access, magazines and programs are provided by the Library.	\$ 104
Parks / Recreation. Oversees programs to meet leisure and recreation needs of the community. Recreation activities include sports, aquatics, fitness, seniors, and teen programs. There are 17 developed parks and facilities including pavilions walking/biking trails, tennis courts, swimming pool, and athletic fields.	\$ 102
Sanitation. Encompasses the trash collection and disposal program. This includes seasonal brush collection, curbside leaf pickup, and environmental groundwater monitoring.	\$ 83
Fire Protection / Emergency Medical Services. The Grafton Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. is staffed by 30 volunteer personnel, ready to respond to emergencies around the clock. The Fire Department protects the lives and properties of citizens and businesses by providing fire prevention, fire suppression and emergency medical services.	\$ 77
Community Development / Inspections. The Planning and Development Department plans for the orderly development of Grafton, which includes processing development plans. The Inspections Department administers and enforces local, state, and national codes related to building design and construction.	\$ 10

Total Village of Grafton 2011 Tax Bill (\$250,000 Average Valued Home) **\$1,610**

Total Village of Grafton 2010 Tax Bill (\$250,000 Average Valued Home) **\$1,610**

Water and Wastewater Utilities. Residents and businesses receive a water and wastewater utility bill. Charges are calculated according to how much water is consumed and wastewater is produced. No taxpayer funds are used to support the Utilities' operations.

ANNUAL VILLAGE OF GRAFTON SIDEWALK POETRY CONTEST

Submission Deadline: Tuesday, January 31, 2012
Up to 10 poets will receive a total of \$500 in prizes
and Village-wide honor.

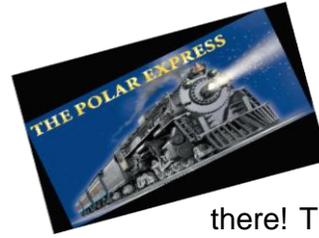
The Village of Grafton sidewalks are paved with poetry! The Department of Public Works and Public Arts Board invite Village and Town of Grafton residents to enter this unique annual contest. Winning poems will be permanently published in Village sidewalks. We are looking for short poems that provide a delightful moment of outdoor reading. Poems may be uplifting, funny, thoughtful, anything appropriate for the general public. There's a poet in each of us, so we encourage everyone to enter.

Guidelines:

- Submit of a maximum of two original poems. Text and subject matter must be appropriate for the general public.
- Poems must be in English; and must fit within a maximum of 10 lines, 40 characters per line including spaces and 250 characters overall including spaces.
- All entries will be reviewed by the Public Arts Board in a blind judging process.
- Selected poets will receive a \$50 Grafton Chamber Gift Check and installation of their poem in Village sidewalks. Poets' names will be credited on the [website](#), but not on the sidewalk. Some selected poems may receive editing suggestions from the Board.
- Entries will be accepted at the Grafton Village Hall beginning Tuesday, January 3, 2012. There is a \$5 entry fee for each poem.
- Entry deadline is Tuesday, January 31, 2012. Winners will be announced February 27, 2012.
- Entry forms are available at www.QualityLifeGrafton.com/poetry.

For more information about this project, visit: www.QualityLifeGrafton.com/poetry. For questions, please call Rachel Reiss at reiss@village.grafton.wi.us, 375-5300.

THE POLAR EXPRESS



Children of all ages can climb aboard THE POLAR EXPRESS in Grafton on Saturday, December 17, 2011. We'll make our way to The North Pole (Port Washington Fire House) where fun awaits all who journey there! The bus will leave from the Grafton Family Aquatic Center at 10:45 a.m. and return at 12:45 p.m.

Ticket fees are \$5 per Village resident children and adults and \$5 for non-resident children and adults. Preregistration is required. Further information can be found on the [Village's website](#) or at the Parks and Recreation Department. This is a joint program offered by the Grafton, Cedarburg and Port Washington Recreation Departments. Please register within your community.

ONLINE REGISTRATION

The Parks and Recreation Department's Online Registration system is up and running! Please visit www.QualityLifeGrafton.com for online registration instructions.

ICE SKATING

Winter is just around the corner and along with it comes ice skating! Weather permitting, an unsupervised rink will be maintained at the Mill Pond at Veterans Memorial Park. A green light near the rink indicates the ice is safe; red indicates skating is prohibited.

Conditions that determine the ice is safe for skating: 8" thick for skating; 12" thick for plowing. Open mid-December to mid-February (weather permitting).

WINTER BASKETBALL CAMPS FOR CHILDREN IN GRADES 3 - 8

Information on other basketball camps beginning January 7, for children in grades 3 - 8 can be found in the Department's fall, winter and spring recreation booklet which is available on the [Village's website](#).

**FUTURE STARS
YOUTH BASKETBALL CAMP**



Want to do something fun this winter? Boys and girls will be introduced to the game of basketball. Fundamental and game skills will be emphasized along with sportsmanship and fun. Games will be played. Preschool age 4 through second grade. Separate camps are held for boys and girls.

Saturdays, January 7 – February 18, 2012

GIRLS' ROOKIE CAMP

Preschool Ages 4 & 5, K-4 & K-5

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

(Youth must be 4 years of age by start of program)

GIRLS' VETERANS CAMP

First grade & second grade

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

BOYS' ROOKIE CAMP

Preschool Ages 4 & 5, K-4 & K-5

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

(Youth must be 4 years of age by start of program)

BOYS' VETERANS CAMP

First grade & second grade

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

LOCATION: John Long Middle School
Gymnasium
700 Hickory Street

FEE: Resident \$ 9.00
Non-resident \$18.00

Preregistration is required. A registration program flyer will be distributed throughout the school district. You may also download a registration form from the [Village's website](#) or register in person at the Parks and Recreation Department.

**THANK YOU ADOPT-A-FLOWER
BED VOLUNTEERS!**

The Adopt-a-Flower Bed program has completed another successful season.

Many thanks go out to the 14 families, businesses & community organizations that maintained Grafton's public flower beds in 2011.

**GRAFTON HIGH SCHOOL
POOL HOURS**

(Through May 2012)

OPEN SWIM

Saturday 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

ADULT LAP SWIM

Monday & Wednesday 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Saturday 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

DAILY FEES:

	<u>YOUTH</u>	<u>ADULT</u>	<u>SENIOR</u>
Resident:	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
Non-resident:	\$3.00	\$4.00	\$4.00

PUNCH CARD FEES:

	<u>YOUTH</u>	<u>ADULT</u>	<u>SENIOR</u>
Resident 10 Visits:	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Resident 20 Visits:	\$30.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Non-resident 10 Visits:	\$25.00	\$35.00	\$35.00
Non-resident 20 Visits:	\$50.00	\$70.00	\$70.00

POOL CLOSURE DATES:

December 24, 2011 – January 1, 2012

February 4, March 17, April 7 - 14

Tentative Season Closure Date: May 26, 2012

(Please check information board at pool for future dates)

SUPER SATURDAY MOVIES

Movie showings will be free. Movies will be shown in the lower level meeting room located in the U.S.S. Liberty Memorial Public Library, 1620 11th Avenue. Food and beverages are permitted during the film. No registration is required. A responsible adult should accompany young children.

January 28 at 11:00 a.m.
Kung Fu Panda 2
Rated PG, Run time 96 minutes

February 25 at 11:00 a.m.
Treasure Buddies
Rated G, Run time 92 minutes

March 24 at 11:00 a.m.
Dolphin Tale
Rated PG, Run time 113 minutes

**ROBERT P. ZAUN PAVILION AVAILABLE FOR
2012 RESERVATIONS**



Reserve the Robert P. Zaun Pavilion in Lime Kiln Park for your next event! This beautiful facility is heated in the winter and air conditioned during the warm, summer months. Amenities include kitchen facilities with stove

and refrigerator, electrical outlets, restrooms, interior banquet room and exterior open-air pavilion. Interior capacity is 87 people with seating for 77; open-pavilion has 6 picnic tables with seating for 48.

Reservations for the Robert P. Zaun Pavilion are accepted on a first come, first served basis. To reserve the pavilion, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 375-5310 for availability. Reservations are not accepted by telephone. Interested parties must file the necessary Conditional Permit Agreement and fees in person to guarantee a reservation.

Following are fees for the Robert P. Zaun Pavilion (fees include both the interior and exterior pavilion areas).

ROBERT P. ZAUN PAVILION Lime Kiln Park 2020 S. Green Bay Road			
WEEKEND RATES: FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY			
CATEGORY	PARK FEE	DEPOSIT	TOTAL DUE
Resident	\$177.50	\$ 75.00	\$252.50
Resident Non-Profit	127.50	50.00	177.50
Resident Company	252.50	100.00	352.50
Non-Resident	230.00	75.00	305.00
Non-Resident Non-Profit	180.00	50.00	230.00
Non-Resident Company	305.00	100.00	405.00
WEEKDAY RATES: MONDAY – THURSDAY (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS)			
Resident	\$102.50	\$ 75.00	\$177.50
Resident Non-Profit	77.50	50.00	127.50
Resident Company	127.50	100.00	227.50
Non-Resident	130.00	75.00	205.00
Non-Resident Non-Profit	105.00	50.00	155.00
Non-Resident Company	155.00	100.00	255.00

**UP COMING LIBRARY EVENTS
FAMILY STORY TIMES**

Story times include stories, finger plays, and songs, with a focus on early literacy. All ages are invited, but program is geared for toddler / preschool aged children. No registration is required. A responsible adult must accompany young children.

January 9 – February 13
Monday's at 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

PRESCHOOL & TODDLER STORY TIME

Stories, finger plays and crafts that focus on early literacy skills for ages 2 – 5. No registration is required. A responsible adult must accompany young children.

March 7 – April 4
Wednesday's at 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

SING & PLAY AT THE LIBRARY

Finger plays and songs followed by open playtime. No registration is required. A responsible adult must accompany young children.

March 8 – April 5
Thursday's at 10:30 a.m.

BOOK TO MOVIE DINNER CLUB

All children in grades 2 – 5 are invited to participate in this program. Each month the Library picks a book to read and to compare with the film version, which is shown at the time of the program. Pizza and beverages will be served. Registration is required. Please sign up at the Children's Checkout Desk.

January's Book
The Borrowers by Mary Norton
January 11 at 3:30 p.m.

February's Book
Tangled (Story is based on Rapunzel)
February 1 at 3:30 p.m.

March's Book
Judy Moody & the Not Bummer Summer
(Story is based on the Judy Moody series by Megan McDonald)
March 7 at 3:30 p.m.

TITANIC PROGRAM

Wednesday, April 11 at 6:00 p.m.

The Titanic program is for school age children. Watch for more information about this program that observes the 100th anniversary of the sinking of "The Titanic."

READ TO ROVER – BACK IN APRIL!

Watch for more information in March about this fun reading program with certified therapy dogs for children in grades 1 – 5.

LIBRARY HOLIDAY HOURS

In observation of the Christmas and New Year Holidays, the Library will be **closed** the following days:



December 23, 24, 26, 30, 31
January 2

CHRISTMAS TREES

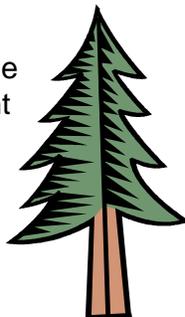
The Department of Public Works will collect Christmas trees placed at the curb during the month of January. It is **NOT** necessary to call in for tree collection.

Please remove items such as tinsel, lights, ornaments, wire or nails and any other hardware prior to placing your tree out for chipping.

All Christmas wreaths and garland must be disposed of with your weekly trash collection. Due to the materials these items are made of they cannot be chipped or placed in the compost pile.

Christmas trees may also be taken to the Residential Yard Waste Site if you have an access card.

If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at 375-5325.



STREET LIGHT OUT?

Streetlights in the Village are owned and maintained by We Energies. If you notice a street light that is burned-out, cycling on and off, or otherwise not working properly, please call the Department of Public Works: 375-5325 or e-mail: publicworks@village.grafton.wi.us or you can report the information directly to We Energies at: www.weenergies.com/night_aura.

When reporting defective street lights it is important that you provide the following information:

- POLE NUMBER
- PROPERTY ADDRESS
- POLE LOCATION

SNOW EMERGENCY!

The declaration of a snow emergency by the Village President occurs when:

1. The safety of the citizens is at risk; and
2. To enable effective snow removal operations by the Department of Public Works.

This winter, please be alert to "Snow Emergency" situations and take appropriate measures. All vehicles must be removed from all Village streets in a snow emergency.

You can check the Village cable station 14 for up-to-date information when severe weather is in progress.

WASTE OIL DISPOSAL

The Department of Public Works will take waste oil at the Municipal Services Facility, 675 North Green Bay Road.

The tank is built into the north side of the building. Signs have been installed to help direct you.

Please note that we are burning this oil to heat the facility therefore no other fluids can be dumped into the tank as it will cause damage to the furnace unit.

RESIDENTIAL YARD WASTE SITE

The Department of Public Works will try to keep the Residential Yard Waste Site open during the winter months.

Because this is the last area plowed or maintained, please allow several days for the crew to clean the area after any severe weather events.

To eliminate any unnecessary trips, please check the website for yard hours prior to going to the yard: www.QualityLifeGrafton.com go to the Public Works section then to yard waste, hours will be listed there.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The Village has many informational flyers regarding storm water and how to prevent additional pollution to our lakes, rivers and streams. You can pick up a copy at the Public Works Department.

Titles of information available include:

- Storm Sewers –
The Rivers Beneath Our Feet
- Car Care for Cleaner Water
- Cleaning Up Stormwater Runoff
- Storm Drain Stenciling –
How You Can Prevent Water Pollution
- Pet Waste and Water Quality

ADOPT A HYDRANT

If your property has a fire hydrant located adjacent to it, would you please assist the Grafton Water Department and Grafton Fire Department this winter by keeping it clear from snow.

By clearing the snow, you will be performing an important community service which is greatly appreciated by the Village and all who depend upon that hydrant for public fire protection.



SUMMER SPRINKLING CREDIT TO BE ELIMINATED

The Utility has long provided a summer sprinkling credit to its sewer customers during the second and third quarter billing periods of each year. This is the period of time when most outdoor water usage occurs. In practice, the sprinkling credit was determined by billing a sewer volume based upon the average winter usage rather than actual metered usage during the summer quarters. The amount of sewer credit or reduced sewer billing has been equivalent to about \$18 per customer.

As a water conservation and cost saving initiative the Utility's summer sprinkling credit will be eliminated in 2012. This measure will repeal the equivalent or need for an approximate 5 percent rate increase. At the same time, it will generally assist the Village and Utility with active promotion of water conservation. The impact of this change in billing practice will initially become apparent with water/sewer billing statements that will be dated 6/30/12 for the period of service 3/12/12 through 6/12/12.

UTILITY OFFICE LOCATION CHANGES FOR 2012

As part of Village-wide efficiency initiatives for 2012, changes in operation will occur at the Utility Office location. Effective January 2, 2012 the Utility Office will no longer function as a customer service center and will be dropped as a pay station after January 20. Utility clerical staff will relocate to the Village Hall location at that time and will provide the same billing, payment collections and customer service functions currently performed at the Utility location.

The Utility Office's outside drop box will still be available to customers.

The advantages of this reorganization include centralization of all Village billing and collection functions and it will provide customers with a one-stop location for payments and miscellaneous inquiries regarding municipal issues.

Both Village and Utility staff members appreciate everyone's patience and understanding during the early transitional period.

BACKFLOW PREVENTER MAINTENANCE

Since 1998, the Utility has been performing “time-of-sale” inspections which include identifying connections or potential connections of contaminant sources with the public water system. The most typical example of a potential cross connection is where the outside hose spigot does not contain a backflow prevention device on it. Also known as a hose bib vacuum breaker, many Grafton homeowners now have these devices in place. Although most of these backflow preventers are classified as frost proof, minimal maintenance steps taken at this time of year will insure that your hose bib backflow preventers will not be damaged by freezing conditions and will continue to provide leak free backflow prevention service. General maintenance steps prior to the winter season should include hose removal and drain down of the spigot line. Drain down is accomplished by shutting off/closing the valve (in basement) to the outside spigot followed by turning open the outside spigot. The backflow preventer includes a stem that should then be pushed or flicked to one side in order to drain any residual water in the device. This should be done for each outside spigot or hose bib that contains a backflow preventer.

With homes that have underground irrigation systems, it is recommended that you contact your contractor or service company in order to properly winterize these systems.

PARAMOUNT PLAZA BUY-A-BRICK!

With the Holiday Season fast approaching now is the time to place your order for the purchase of a personalized Paramount Plaza Brick. This is a great way to remember those you love. You can also give them as gifts, memorials, or to commemorate other special occasions. There are two sizes to choose from: 4” x 8” (\$50) or 8” x 8” (\$100).

For bricks to be installed by spring, the Village will be accepting orders until March 31, 2012, but with a limited supply of bricks left, orders will be taken on a first come, first served basis. You can order through the [Village website](#), or you can pick up an application at Village Hall, 860 Badger Circle. Sponsorships of other Paramount Plaza streetscape amenities are also available.



VILLAGE BOARD

President	Home Phone	E-Mail Address
Jim Brunnuquell	377-0718	jbrunnuquell@village.grafton.wi.us
Trustees		
James Grant	377-7424	trusteegrant@sbcglobal.net
Dave Antoine	377-0943	dantoine48@gmail.com
David Liss	375-0177	davidliss76@att.net
Richard Rieck	375-9995	Rieck3@gmail.com
Susan Meinecke	375-9480	smeinecke@village.grafton.wi.us
Lisa Uribe-Harbeck	375-1619	lharbeck@village.grafton.wi.us