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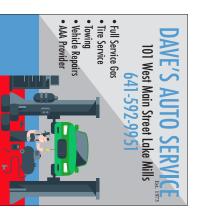


















Official Newspaper





Bolan Schoolhouse & Cultural Center

302 4th Ave Grafton, IA 50440 641-748-2789 or 641-421-8000





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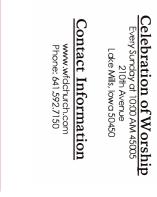












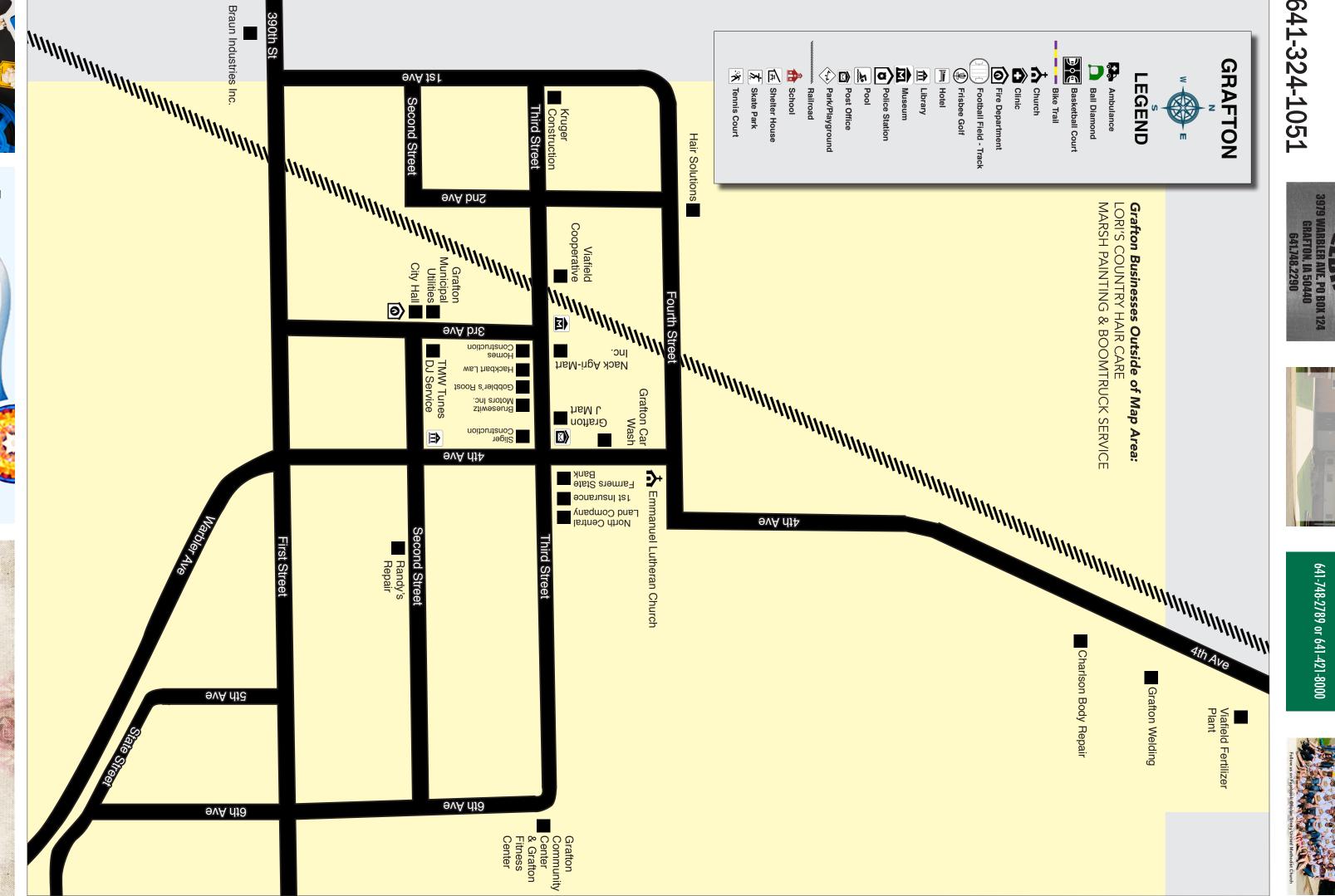
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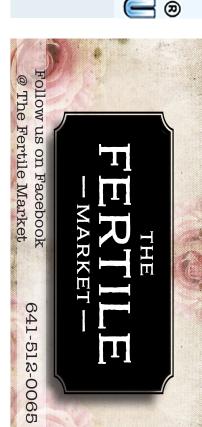












Grafton





Platted in 1878, Grafton was originally settled by German immigrants who came to the area following the building of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railway. With the settlers and the railway came a major growth in traffic through the area, and therefore the building of various businesses such as the Grafton Hotel, a cigar factory, and a mill that produced flax and sent the bales to the prison in Stillwater, Minnesota to be made into rope, twine, and furniture upholstery packing. The turkey-raising industry was started in the 1940's, and inspired the creation of the Annual Turkey Day celebration, which has been part of the community since the 1970's.

Present day Grafton has several other ties to its long history - many of the original business buildings still stand and offer an extensive history to visitors of the area. The Grafton Depot, which was opened in 1878 and was in operation until 1974, is open to the public as a museum and is also on the National Register of Historic places. It was restored to its original condition in 1975-1976 and remains as the oldest building in Grafton.

Another historical building is the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, which was built in 1936 at the height of the Great Depression. The church features original ornate carvings and stained glass, but its biggest attraction is the hand-carved Alois Lang altar. The altar was commissioned to the German wood carving artist and is one of only a handful of Lang's artworks in the United States. You can also see Alois Lang's altar for yourself at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, located at 308 4th Ave. Call 641-748-2736 for more information.

Today, Grafton is a small town with a population of 250. Despite its size, the town maintains a wide variety of businesses including a bank, post office, restaurant, car dealership, car wash, beauty shops, insurance, construction businesses, painting services, a welding shop, auto body shop and auto repair.

Grafton is also in a great location, being within driving distance of Mason City, Iowa; Rochester and Minneapolis, Minnesota. Additionally, the town is a

safe, family friendly community that has a unique relationship with the Diamond Jo Casino, which works with Worth Country to provide yearly funds to buy school supplies; and each high school graduate heading off to college receives a scholarship as well. The casino also gives out grants twice a year which benefit towns all over the county. Grafton has received funds for a new tornado siren, ball diamond fence, working truck with snowplow, generators, a new rescue vehicle, new shelter house roof, and depot repair.

Every year, the community comes together for various celebrations. The spring is kicked off with the Adult Prom, held the first Saturday of March at the Grafton



Community Center. Anyone over the age of 21 is welcome to join the party. Aside from annual celebrations, Grafton offers year-round opportunities for activity. The Grafton Community Center, located at 202 6th Ave., is a large facility perfect for wedding receptions, parties, anniversaries, or other large gatherings. The rental rates are very reasonable, and decorations are available for use at no extra cost. Another meeting room is available for smaller gatherings. For information on renting the Grafton Community Center, contact City Hall at 641-

The Community Center is also home to the Grafton Athletic Club, which is complete with Nautilus equipment and treadmills. Members have 24/7 access.

Grafton's City Park offers a place for all kinds of outdoor activities. It has a wading pool, a playground, basketball and sand volleyball courts, and a lighted softball diamond. Summertime softball and volleyball leagues are held here.

For indoor activities, head on over to the Grafton Public Library, whose collection includes over 14,000 books, DVDs, audio books, and periodicals. Every June, the library offers the Children's Summer Reading Program. There are also computers that can be accessed by the public. Additionally, the building also offers a meeting room to be used for educational, cultural, civic or public information events. Anyone may use the facilities at no cost if their meetings are open to the public, free of charge, and non-profit. Arrangements to use the meeting room must be made in advance with the librarian.

For some history, you can visit the Grafton Heritage Museum and Depot, which is a restored turn-of-thecentury railroad depot located at the west end of Central Avenue at 4th St. Contact Rose Kruger at 641-425-0042.

Or head on over to the Bolan Schoolhouse, which was built in 1923 and restored by a nonprofit organization. The lower level serves as a community center and location to host entertaining and cultural events. The upper level displays educational and local memorabilia spanning the years 1923 to 1956. Contact Lori Willert at 641-845-2577 for more information.







REFERENCES

CITY OF GRAFTON

109 3rd Avenue, PO Box 550 641-748-2970

www.graftoniowa.com

Monday 9:30 am - 5 pm Tuesday 1 - 6 pm Thursday 9:30 am - 5 pm

GRAFTON POST OFFICE

641-748-2720 Monday - Friday 8 am - 12 pm

Saturday 7 - 8:45 am

GRAFTON COMMUNITY CENTER 202 6th Avenue, PO Box 550

641-748-2970 www.graftoniowa.com

GRAFTON FITNESS CENTER

202 6th Avenue 641-748-2970

www.graftoniowa.com

NEWSPAPER

Manly Junction Signal 801 Central Avenue, Northwood 641-324-1051

ST. ANSGAR COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

206 East 8th Street, St. Ansgar 641-713-4720

www.st-ansgar.k12.ia.us

GRAFTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

201 4th Avenue, PO Box 25 641-748-2735

www1.youseemore.com/nilc/Grafton

graftonlib@wctatel.net Tuesday - Friday 2 - 6:30 pm Saturday 9 - 3

ORGANIZATIONS

Cole Feldt 641-420-6118 Fire Chief 107 3rd Ave 641-748-2190 Fire Hall 641-430-5682 Grafton Rescue Steve Yezek 641-748-2029 Grafton Turkey Day Brad Dalluge 641-390-0341 Kris Tabbert

UTILITIES

ELECTRICITY, WATER, SEWER AND GARBAGE/

The City of Grafton bills monthly for Electricity, Water, Sewer and Garbage/Recycling. New residents to Grafton need to fill out a service application and pay a deposit of \$150. The application is available at Grafton City Hall. Call 641-748-2970 for more info.

Grafton purchases electricity wholesale from Heartland Power Co-op and sells it to their residents. Various rebates are offered to our residents. Rebate forms can be picked up at city hall.

Garbage/Recycling : City of Grafton

Grafton contracts with Absolute Waste for garbage and recycling. Garbage is picked up every Wednesday. Inquire at city hall for the 3 garbage options available. If you decide on the "sticker" option, stickers can be purchased at Grafton City Hall or Grafton J Mart grocery store. Recycling is picked up the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

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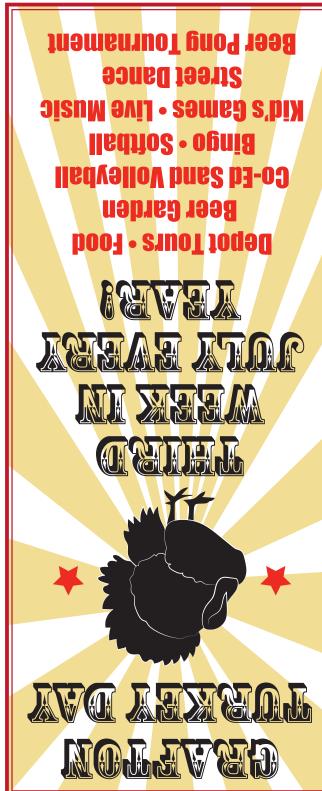
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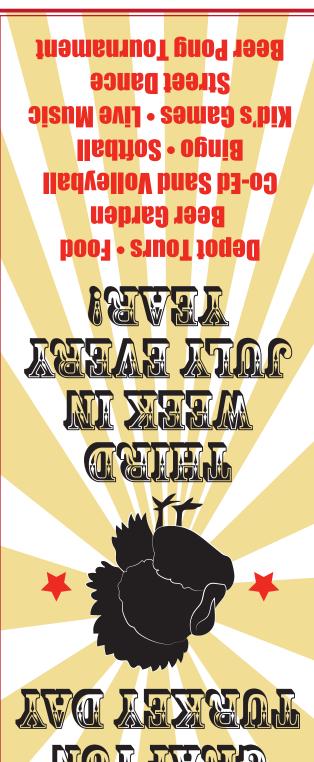
Gas Residents have their own LP tanks.

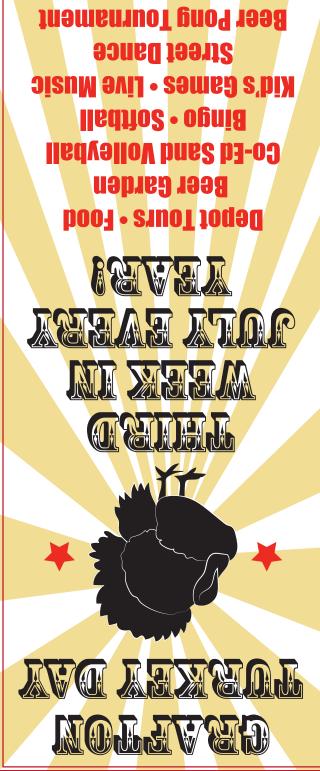
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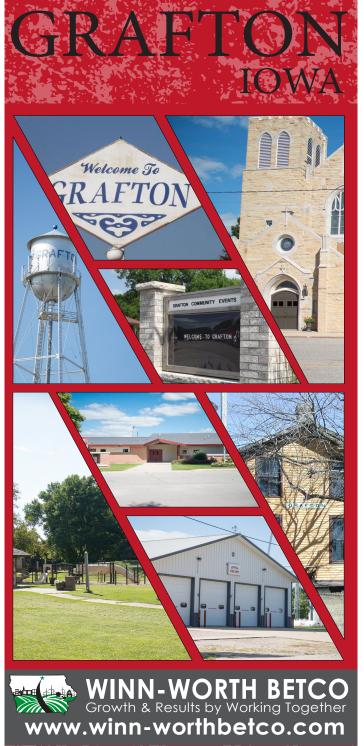
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