



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Blake Crosby, Executive Director
blake@ndlc.org
701-223-3518

Grafton named 2021 City of the Year

Grafton was named 2021 City of the Year by the North Dakota League of Cities (NDLC) during the League's 2021 Annual Conference on Sept. 18.

In his presentation of the award to Grafton, NDLC Executive Director Blake Crosby outlined some highlights of their nomination.

Grafton has shown great resiliency and planning for the future.

After more than 40 years of discussions about flood control and several public votes that resulted in no action, a comprehensive flood control project was presented to the citizens and approved.

This \$48 million project will remove the city from the 100 year floodplain and save residents hundreds of thousands of dollars. A 3.2-mile diversion channel that can carry up to 12,000 cubic feet of water per second along with 12.5 miles of tie-back levees took over two years to complete. Interior storm water flooding was also addressed in the project.

With funding from the United States Department of Agriculture and the state of North Dakota, a \$20 million, 40,000 square foot expansion was added to the hospital. This expansion has a state-of-the-art surgery center for local physicians and visiting specialists, a new Physical Therapy and Rehab center, a new emergency department, 11 private rooms for patient care, and a third floor for training and working with the UND School of Medicine and as a rural training center.

The citizens approved a school bond referendum to bring all students, K-12, under one roof and to include the addition of a liberal arts center. This allowed the reorganization of the Grafton School District with the St Thomas School District, growing the enrollment numbers and serving more patrons.

The North Dakota League of Cities provides service, advocacy, leadership, education and support to the state's 357 cities. The League's mission - Strong. Dynamic. Cities" - expresses the value of services offered by the League.

Photo L to R: Greg Young, Grafton Council Member; Christopher Lipsh, Grafton Council Member; Diane Affeldt, NDLC Board President; Chris West, Grafton Mayor; Blake Crosby, NDLC Executive Director; and Nick Ziegelmann, Grafton City Administrator.

