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## Can you top this? Grafton wants you to try

### Village to install a 12-foot climbing wall in its pool

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**Grafton** - Attention future Navy SEALs: The village plans to install a state-of-the-art, 12-foot-high climbing wall in its outdoor swimming pool.

*Advertisement* You can bet hardy teenagers will climb side-by-side to see who can reach the top first, village Administrator Darrell Hofland said Thursday. "It does lend itself to competition."

The Aquaclimb device will be the first installed in Wisconsin, said Emilie Kelly, a spokeswoman for the manufacturer, Pyramide USA Inc. of Leesburg, Va.

The distinctive climbing wall was introduced last spring, and there are about 15 installed throughout the U.S. and Canada, Kelly said.

The wall, about 9 feet wide, is made of 3-foot-high fiberglass panels that can be installed in four different orientations. The panels have ridges, valleys and handholds that can be turned. Three climbers can mount it at once, buoyed somewhat at the start since the wall's base is in deep water. Eventually, climbers can fall back into the pool and compete for the biggest splash.

Earlier this week, the Grafton Village Board voted unanimously to spend \$19,250 for the wall and hire a project manager to supervise installation.

In the Grafton pool, at 649 N. Green Bay Road, the wall will be erected next to a diving area in water that is 12 feet deep, Hofland said. One of the existing diving boards will be shut down when the Aquaclimb is being used, and a lifeguard will watch the climbers.

The village bought the wall, Hofland said, because this kind of equipment is similar to what many private water parks have.

"The key to stabilizing or increasing attendance," Hofland said, "is to install something new and novel."

During last year's warm summer, 27,702 people went to Grafton's pool. That compared with attendance of 21,703 during the cooler summer of 2004.

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