



The Village News

mywestliberty.com

201 N. Detroit St. PO Box 187

West Liberty, OH 43357

937-465-2716

Mayor Jill C. McKelvey

April 2023

Don't be an April fool...

Many times we are receiving calls or knocks on the door from people trying to take advantage of our kindness. Scams are going around and in March we helped raise awareness of online and phone scams with a public information session. Sometimes a scammer comes to our front door. If you are getting ready to hire a contractor (this includes tree trimmers), the Village Office has a list of contractors who have registered with the Village and the paperwork may be viewed by the residents. The list is also available at www.mywestliberty.com under the residents then government tabs.



A necessary obligation is taxes and the income tax deadline is April 18th. As you review your taxes each year, you will see the breakdown for property taxes and how it is parceled out to each entity (the largest share goes to the school and some going to West Liberty, Liberty Township, and Logan County departments, i.e. Sheriff, Health Department, Engineer, etc). With income tax you pay 1% of earned income to the Village of West Liberty, this means that retirement pensions are not taxed. The 1.75% that is paid to the school district is on all income (retirement income is taxed and this is called the traditional tax base). Because of the loss of local government funding by the state of Ohio to the local government entities, more local taxes are collected to help continue the services that are necessary for municipalities like ours.

The Village is audited by the State of Ohio every two years. They spend many hours with our Clerk reviewing ordinances, revenue sources, and expenditures to make sure we are following the Ohio Revised Code and West Liberty ordinances. If you are interested in seeing how your tax dollars are spent on many levels of government, visit <https://checkbook.ohio.gov>. Not all of our local entities are listed but you will find on the site: the State of Ohio, Village of West Liberty, and Logan County. This allows transparency in government. It also allows you to view other municipalities, counties, townships, school districts, and State agencies from Ohio.

The www.mywestliberty.com has Council minutes, the newsletters, and other important information for residents. If you have questions, check it out and find all elected officials' emails and department heads' contact information there.

As Benjamin Franklin once said, "Not everything you read on the internet is true."

Happy Spring! Enjoy the Spring weather !

Clerk's Corner

Mayor Jill

Municipal Tax packets are still available: for those **with** earned income, are available at the Town Hall Office and the Library. If you have **NO EARNED** income, an Individual Declaration of Exemption form needs to be filled out and sent every year. These can be found online at ritaohio.com Form 10A or stop at the town hall and pick up a form.

Just a reminder: Water/Sewer rates will increase by 3%, to equal \$1.82, starting April 1st. This will show on your May's utility bill.

Cindee Boyd
Clerk/Treasurer
937-465-2716
vowclerk@mywestliberty.com



West Liberty Business Anniversaries

Shell Gas Station
LeVan's Body Shop
Eichholtz, Daring & Sanford Funral Home

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 8th, 4PM Historical Easter Customs @ Piatt Castle Mac-A-Cheek. Free to the Public.

April 29th, 9AM Arbor Day Trees: Past, Present & Future @ Piatt Castle Mac-A-Cheek. Free to the Public.

Jayne Griffith Council President



In 2019 Councilman Jeremy Keller began the work that it would take for West Liberty to become a Tree City U.S.A. At the present time this falls under Council Woman Joanna

Hostetler's capable hands, but I was blessed to be a part of the team to file our application to remain a Tree City USA this year. Why is this important? Being a part of this means that West Liberty is intentional about the management, health and sustainability of these noble plants.

Imagine if you will, a world without trees. There would be much less oxygen, no natural covering from the sun, the ozone would be changed, our whole ecosystem would be different. Our under nourished soil would bear no crops. To quote our District 1 Urban Forester from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Alistair Reynolds, "We would become Mars."

On the other hand, a world with trees is beautiful, shaded, providing not only what all Earth's creatures need to survive, but also scenery we like to look at and places we want to be. Think for a moment. Where is your favorite outdoor space in West Liberty? Are there trees there? My mind goes quickly to our well kept Lions Park, the trees at the big playground beside Ohion creek. I've watched generations of children playing from under the shade of those trees.

I hope you can think of many places in our village where trees that you find lovely, enticing, peaceful, memory making. And know that as a part of being a Tree City U.S.A. the West Liberty Council appreciates what our trees do for us and purposes to do its part to take care of them. Thank you to all who have helped us along this path.

If you would like to be a part of a commission to help maintain the goals of Tree City USA in West Liberty, please contact the Village office at 937-465-2716.

Jayne Griffith W. Liberty Council President

West Liberty Historical Society Event

West Liberty Historical Society.

Thursday April 13 at 4:00. The West Liberty Historical Society welcomes Logan Boggs to present a stand-up comedy presentation. The History of the World, with some jokes. Too often history is presented as a dry string of facts and dates. From the first humans up to the World Wars this presentation is meant to bring out the humor of many historic events, while still being informative. Admission by donation.

Bill Detrick Street Department Superintendent

Why do we sweep the streets? Storm water catch basins and drains get blocked by leaves, garbage and dirt which can pose a flooding risk. Debris such as sticks, rocks and loose grit can be a danger to pedestrians and vehicular traffic. The most obvious benefit is that sweeping improves the aesthetics of your streets. If you live on a curbed street, please have all vehicles moved on sweeping days so they can be properly cleaned.

Street Sweeping Schedule: Residents must have vehicles moved off the streets between the hours of 6:00 and 12:00 pm so the streets can be properly swept. By Village Ordinance, vehicles may be towed if they are not moved and interfere with street sweeping. Reminders of sweeping and changes in schedule will be sent by Village Alert System.

The following are the dates for Street sweeping and are subject to change due to rain, etc.

April 3rd, April 17th, May 8th, June 5th, July 3rd, August 7th, September 11th, & October 7th.

Yard Waste: Yard waste is picked up on Wednesdays, please have it set out by 7:00 AM. Yard waste such as weeds or grass are to be in 5 gallon buckets

Bill Detrick

A Special Thank You To:

Dan Verin who was taped in March, while sharing his story to thank all Veterans; their Comrades saved his life when he was a kid in French North Africa, in 1942.

We would also like to thank the **Lady Veterans** who were taped in March, sharing their stories and experiences of Military enlistment. And thank you to **Nick Hostetler** for being an amazing MC for the event.

CONGRATULATIONS To **Cindy Oelker** on her retirement after serving the public for 35 years!! You have been an icon of West Liberty and Liberty Gathering Place! Enjoy your Retirement!!

Please come out and support the new owners, make them feel welcome to West Liberty!



937-650-8006 501 W. Baird St. West Liberty

Article written and submitted by Brenda Snyder, WLBA Secretary

We would like to congratulate Heather Chamberlain and Theresa’s Gingerbread House, LLC and Childcare Centers for being voted as West Liberty Business Association’s April 2023 Business of the Month. Theresa’s Gingerbread House is a state licensed facility that has 2 locations; one in West Liberty and one in Urbana. Heather’s mother, Theresa Ball Cox, started Theresa’s Gingerbread House in the back of their home when they moved to Urbana in 1989 to care for Heather’s Papaw who had Alzheimer’s disease after her Mamaw passed away suddenly at the young age of 57. Theresa was one of the first Type A Centers to be licensed in the State of Ohio on April 10, 1990. They are celebrating 33 years in business this year.

Heather started working with her mom as a teacher aide in 1998 when she graduated high school. Then in 1999 while she was in college, Heather started training under her mom as an assistant Administrator. Heather became a co-owner of the business in 2005. Theresa retired in 2015 after 25 years in business and Heather has continued on as a second generation woman in business which is something she is very proud of. This is Heather’s 25th year in the business! Heather has 36 total employees between the 2 centers. They hire 3-4 additional staff in the summer to bring their total number of employees up to 40.

They opened their West Liberty location in 2008. They saw the building for sale and decided it would be a great location for a childcare center. They purchased it from Humble Construction and then spent the next 6 months on the renovations to bring it up to code for the State of Ohio building regulations, and they opened June 12, 2008.

Theresa’s Gingerbread House, LLC Childcare Centers offers the residents of West Liberty a quality childcare center where your child can be cared for in a safe, loving environment while being prepared for kindergarten. Heather says “We believe children learn through play but also need structured activities so while they are with us, they receive both throughout their day. They receive all their meals and snacks, and an accredited state approved curriculum.”

Theresa’s Gingerbread House is a Christian Childcare Center built on Christian principles and values and the Christian flags can be found hanging throughout both centers. The children sing a song of prayer before they eat as well as say the Pledge of Allegiance every day before breakfast. The children are taught kindness and inclusion. The centers accept Title 20 childcare assistance to any family who is approved, and they do not put a cap on the number of children they enroll with assistance.

When asked how involved with the West Liberty Community she is, Heather responded “We give to many organizations within our community, and we are always willing to help any child in need. We adopt several of our children each Christmas and collect Christmas presents for them to present their family with. My Mom was 1 of 12 children growing up in the hollers of West Virginia, and a missionary ventured up that holler one day and told her she could change her life, and she never forgot that moment. She worked hard, put herself through college one year at a time while working one year at a time, and she realized the American dream through

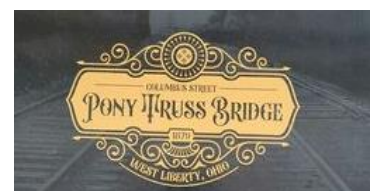
Order today !

Welcome Spring by ordering your WL Apparel:
sweatshirts, t-shirts, hoodies. All colors and sizes.



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or go to....
<https://villageofwl.com/shop/home/>

Pony Truss Bridge Calendars



Help to restore this historical bridge. Buy your calendar today! They are available at the Town Hall for \$10.00