



The Village News

mywestliberty.com

201 N. Detroit St. PO Box 187

West Liberty, OH 43357

937-465-2716

Mayor Jill C. McKelvey

August, 2023

West Liberty Total Solar Eclipse Festival (April 6-8, 2024)

The Total Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024 could bring thousands of people to our area for an unforgettable event. Being the closest totality area for those from the East Coast and Southeast, Ohio is primed to witness this awe-inspiring spectacle. The last total solar eclipse visible in Ohio was in 1806 and the next total solar eclipse to be visible in Ohio will be in 2444.

The State of Ohio is preparing for large numbers of tourists. Many major cities, including Cleveland, Mansfield, Dayton, Sidney, and Wapakoneta, have already started promoting events for the Total Solar Eclipse.

Our goal is to bring tourists to our community and stimulate economic growth by encouraging them to spend money in our local businesses. We also aim to showcase the exceptional qualities of our community and create a lasting impression that entices visitors to return in the future.

Both the Logan and Champaign Chambers/Visitors' Bureaus are projecting a high number of out-of-town and out-of-state visitors to our area. Consequently, we anticipate increased traffic on roadways, particularly on US and State Routes. Additionally, the surge in visitors may impact resources such as lodging, fuel, food, cell phone reception, and more.

All residents of West Liberty Village and Green Hills will receive a free pair of solar eclipse glasses to view the eclipse. This once-in-a-lifetime event (for most people not willing to travel) deserves to be experienced safely. Village Residents will have free access to all eclipse-related events.

Residents of Liberty Township who do not reside within the Village of West Liberty corporation limits will not receive free solar eclipse glasses. However, if we are able to acquire additional glasses, we will make them available for purchase at cost to these Liberty Township residents. Some groups and organizations may offer parking for a fee. At this time, discussions are underway to secure more parking at individual churches and businesses, but a full list has not been finalized. Street parking will be free and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

During the three days of the event, we are considering the use of a trolley to transport attendees from parking areas to event locations. Please note that there may be a fee for riding the trolley to cover costs related to fuel and drivers. However, this arrangement has not been confirmed.

Any funds raised from this festival will be reinvested back into our community through the participation of various groups and organizations. By supporting this event, you are contributing to the growth and well-being of our community.

Questions & Quick Notes

When is the eclipse?

Monday, April 8th, 2024 with the totality lasting from 3:10 PM until about 3:15 PM

When are visitors expected to start arriving in the Village?

Saturday, April 6th, 2024

Are there any community events planned yet?

Yes! There are several activities already planned with more in the works! Here are just a few:

Piatt Castle - A historic look at the total solar eclipse from 1806

Stargazing at the park

Fireworks at the park

How can I stay up-to-date on future developments for the eclipse?

This list of events will be updated constantly AND will be available at the website and on our Feel@HomeApp.

How can I volunteer

If interested please email names and contact information to me at mayor.mckelvey@mywestliberty.com If you have any suggestions or questions, please contact me via email or the Village office at 937.465.2716

Thank you for helping make West Liberty a wonderful place to live.

Mayor Jill

"Good News stories" Comments submitted through mywestliberty.com, published by permission.

I had a knee replacement last month and have been unable to mow my grass. Today, someone I have never met was outside mowing it for me. I'm so grateful to live in such a caring community! We just moved here in October, but I lived here as a child about 50 years ago and remember the kindness during the blizzard of 78. I just wanted to publicly thank this gentleman and say how grateful we are that we chose to join this community.

Your website is AMAZING! We are planning a trip to the Castle tomorrow and I work for the Chamber of Commerce in Brookville. A quick search brought up your site and I love it! I found way more than I bargained for, a few hours is not enough time, and I am moving to West Liberty when I grow up. (I may be in my 40's but whateer)! Great job! And THANK YOU!!!

Cindee Boyd
Clerk/Treasurer
937-465-2716

Go Paperless for your water bill..... If you would like to have your Water bill sent by email, please write your email address on your payment stub when you pay your bill. And the next billing cycle, will be emailed. Emailed bills are available on the 1st day of each month. This is NOT mandatory, it is completely your choice.

West Liberty Business Anniversaries

W. Columbus St. Bridge	built in 1879
LeVan's Excavating, Inc.	Est. 1995
West Liberty Healing Arts	Est. 1997

West Liberty Labor Day Festival

Parade

- Classic Car Cruise-in Fri. Sept. 1, 4-8pm
- Corn Hole Tournaments
- Garden Tractor Pulls
- 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament
- Coed Volleyball Tournament
- Antique Tractor Pull
- Wiffle Ball Tournament
- Chicken BBQ
- Tractor Exhibitors
- Flea Market
- Food Venders
- And so much more !!

COUNTRY LEGENDS FESTIVAL

At Lions Park - Labor Day Festival



SHENANDOAH	4 PM Main Stage
SARA EVANS	6 PM Main Stage
LONESTAR	8 PM Main Stage
TRACE ADKINS	10 PM Main Stage

2 Stages, over 8 hours of Non-Stop Country Music
www.clfestival.com for more information and tickets.

For more information go to:
mywestliberty.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Mon. Aug. 7th 7:00 PM National Purple Heart Day at Veterans Park. Public is Welcome.
- Sat. Aug 19th 7:00 AM Lions Club Pancake Breakfast
- Sat. Aug. 19th 8:30 AM 46th Annual 5K Boss Summer Run. www.BornAndRacedinWestLiberty.com
- Sun Aug. 13th 6:00 PM West Central Ohio Community Concert Band Performs @ Piatt Castle Mac-A-Cheek
- Sept. 1st - 4th West Liberty Labor Day Festival

For more information about any of these events go to mywestliberty.com



Joanna Hostetler Council Member

Hello Fellow residents of West Liberty. Hope everyone is enjoying their summer. As fall is just around the corner, this is a great time to think about planting trees, shrubs, and perennials.

Early September through November is an ideal time to plant in Ohio. There is less heat stress on plants and bugs/diseases greatly decrease, making it more optimal time to plant.

Please be mindful when planting. Avoid planting too close to fences, under power/phone line, driveways, or sidewalks.

Planting trees, shrubs, and perennials come with many benefits. They provide shade, improve air quality, and reduce soil erosion.

Most of all, it creates a curb appeal and can potentially add to your property value.

Have a wonderful Fall & Happy planting !

PUBLIC MEETING

There is a public meeting to review the newest Floodplain Map. Our guest will be Alicia Sliverio (State Floodplain expert) Allison Fowler (Logan County Floodplain expert) and Helen Norris, Logan County EMA director. This meeting will be held at West Liberty Town Hall in Opera House at 6:00 PM

Shane Oelker Police Chief

Police Chief Shane Oelker was a member of the tenth Public Safety Leadership Academy class that graduated 31 law enforcement leaders June 8, 2023 after 11 weeks of accredited, college-level training through a partnership with The Ohio State University John Glenn College of Public Affairs. The training was hosted at the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Training Academy and was offered at no cost to agencies through casino tax revenue distributed to the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Office of Criminal Justice Services for the purpose of supporting law enforcement training.

During the graduation ceremony, Ohio State Highway Patrol Colonel Charles A. Jones provided remarks and Heidi Ramsey, an instructor for PSLA and the FBI National Academy addressed the graduates.

Graduates learned skills necessary to manage their law enforcement agency, demonstrated preparedness to take on additional leadership responsibilities, and earned a leadership certificate and 10 hours of academic credit through The Ohio State University John Glenn College of Public Affairs. Participating officers completed 274 hours of instruction on leadership, community engagement, public administration, and contemporary issues in policing.

Graduates had the opportunity to meet with other executive law enforcement officials to learn from their experiences and discuss how to build positive relations with the communities they serve. Graduates also attended classes on dealing with future challenges in the field, overcoming the unique mental stressors of possible violence on the job, and ensuring best practices for law enforcement managers to recruit and retain the next generation of law enforcement professionals.

During National Police Week, graduates traveled to Washington, D.C. and the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg, Md., where they toured sites that shaped our nation's leaders and attended specialized training for peace officers at the National Holocaust Museum.

As part of a community outreach effort, graduates partnered with the Columbus-based nonprofit Local Matters to help restore and repair community garden sites in Central Ohio.

Shane Oelker
Chief of Police West Liberty Police Department
111 Runkle St. PO Box 187 West Liberty, Ohio 43357
937-465-2801 ext. 101 or
by email at soelker@westlibertypolice.org



West Liberty Lions Club presents:



2023 EZGO Valor Golf Cart RAFFLE



Gas Powered ★ Fuel Injected ★ Street Ready

Tickets: \$2 each or 6 for \$10
See any WL Lions member
or scan the QR code
with your mobile phone:



Minimum 6 for \$10 credit card purchase
plus \$1 convenience fee per book

Drawing to be held at 5:00 PM on Labor Day,
Monday September 4, 2023; need not be present to win

Special thanks to Pro Equipment LLC, Huntsville, OH



Membership available by email
westliblions@gmail.com or contact
Lions Club Member

LABOR DAY PARADE GRAND MARSHAL

2023 West Liberty Labor Day Parade Grand Marshals are
Richard and Linda Levan
Nominated by Lion Liesl Cornelius

Being named grand marshall is a very unexpected and wonderful honor to be part of our favorite West Liberty event and being recognized for our small contributions to this community.

Our story began when we met following high school at a Bellefontaine drive in where Linda worked as a carhop. After dating a couple years, we married in 1962. We purchased a small house in West Liberty, where Richard was working at the time. We loved the small community and have lived in this area our entire married life. We have raised two children, Kim and Brian, who have also stayed in this area and we now have seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

We have been married 61 years and have lived in or near WL the entire time.

We feel West Liberty is a safe, small community with good values, kind and friendly people, a good school system, and great businesses and organizations.

We enjoy the Labor Day weekend as a celebration with longtime friends, former co-workers, school classmates, along with great food and music. It is an event we look forward to each year. We even rent our own space along the creek so we have a place to set our lawn chairs and gather with friends- the same place every year!

Richard joined the WL fire department in 1965 and retired as a lieutenant after 31 years of service. He also assisted Linda with maintaining the local cemetery operations for 20 years. Linda was a member of the Fireflies women's auxiliary to the fire department for 31 years and also Sexton of the West Liberty Fairview cemetery for 20 years.

Advice to younger generations, would be to "give careful thought to house you use social media and what you post because the whole world does not need to know your entire life"

Serving as Sexton of the cemetery was challenging and enjoyable. Linda devoted 20 years to its care. I wanted to maintain, expand, and improve it as one of the best cemeteries in the area. I really enjoyed talking and helping families during some of their most difficult times in their lives.

West Liberty Lions Club Lion of the Year: Lion Judy Legge

I am very surprised, overwhelmed, and honored to be named Lion of the year. I enjoy participating in the many activities and projects our club undertakes. My philosophy is, if you belong to a group or club, be an active part or don't belong. After all, our motto is "we serve"

I was born at the old Champaign County hospital in Urbana. My parents were the late Harley and Clarabelle Plank. I have lived in or around WL all of my life and am a graduate of WL High School. I am a member of the United Church of Christ having served as Choir director, on the church board, and an officer of the Missionary aide ladies group.

I was married to David Legge for 35 years, he passed away in 2016, our combined family of children is John Junior, Jill, Jennifer, Wes, Doug, and Terri and they have blessed us with many grandchildren- three this year and three more on the way.

For 30+ years I worked as a secretary at National Soft Water/Hague Water conditioning. Thank you to Lowell Buck and Jeff Hague for many great memories.

In addition to WL Lions Club, I am a member of the Mac O Chee Homemakers and Monday Afternoon Club. For many years I worked as a poll worker for the Board of Elections and currently volunteer at WL-S Schools in the first grade, elementary library, and the AD office. They recently named me "Volunteer of the Year" for the school system. I also help contribute to the annual Ice cream social.

My hometown West Liberty is small but mighty, a Christian, caring community. When a disaster or tragedy hits, help is there- physically, financially and prayerfully. My extended family has benefited from this showing of love several times.

Our Labor Day weekend, which started as a home show for local businesses, is now a mini county fair. The parade, vendors, and flea markets, food, visiting with friends-old and new, and the recent addition of the concerts- I love it all.

To the younger generation, Be kind- Kindness is free- pass it on. Also get involved in the community, school, and church. What you give will be returned 10 fold

May favorite part of Lionism is the comradery, working together to get a project thought through, organized, and brought to a successful conclusion- TOGETHER WE SERVE