

The Village News

mywestliberty.com

2022
HAPPY NEW YEAR

201 N. Detroit St. PO Box 187

West Liberty, OH 43357

937-465-2716

January 2022

WL Police Department:

In 2015 the state of Ohio established statewide standards in policing for the first time in history following several incidents throughout Ohio and the nation. The Ohio Police Collaborative established standards for law enforcement agencies across the state that include Use of Force, Hiring and Recruitment, Community Relations, and Body Worn Cameras. The Collaborative constantly issues standards, and agencies must complete a thorough process in order to be compliant. The West Liberty Police Department earned its certification during the infancy of the Ohio Collaborative, and continues to work to improve as well as working to meet all future standards.

I feel that it is important that there be public trust in law enforcement, and I believe it is important that my department continue to provide the best possible service to our residents. I challenge my officers to continue to learn and educate themselves on new police practices as well as mandate them to review our policy and procedure on a regular basis. The officers are to read and respond to daily training bulletins which I feel helps them stay up to date on the policies that I have set forth which meet the criteria of the Ohio Collaborative.

If anyone has any questions or wishes to learn more about the Ohio Collaborative or the standards that the West Liberty Police Department currently meets please feel free to stop by my office or give me a call.

Shane Oelker

Chief of Police

West Liberty Police Department

111 Runkle St.

PO Box 187

West Liberty, Ohio 43357

937-465-2801

937-650-1024 Fax

WL Fire Department:

As we approach the winter months, The West Liberty Fire Dept. and Macochee EMS would like to remind you to please take time to clean driveways and sidewalks in the event we have an emergency at your location. We have had a significant increase in calls this past year and not having access only hampers our ability to help. Also please have your addresses visible from the street and able to be seen at night. Please do not pile snow around fire hydrants.

As the colder weather approaches, furnaces and other heaters must work harder to keep up. This can lead to an increase in CO2 levels causing illness or the potential for fires. Please ensure you have working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your home. If you do not have a working smoke detector, contact the West Liberty FD and we will get one to you. Please stay safe and warm!

Darin Leach

WL Fire Chief

WL Mayor - Jill McKelvey

This spring the village of West Liberty will be holding our Annual Purple Heart Ceremony to recognize Purple Heart Veterans that have not been acknowledged previously. If you or someone you know was not identified and did not receive a stone at the Purple Heart Memorial at Veterans' Park, please contact s.barger@mywestliberty.com with the following information: **Full Name of the Purple Heart recipient, branch of service, years of service with the military, and date he/she received the Purple Heart(s).** We are recognizing all veterans who received this award and lived in the 43357 zip code during the time he/she was drafted or enlisted OR currently live in this zip code. Information will need to be submitted by March 1, 2022 for this round of recognition in order for the stones to be ordered and then placed at the memorial by the event date (this date will be released later this spring as we are still coordinating with the Ohio Military Order of the Purple Heart for the village to receive a Proclamation as a Purple Heart Community). All Veterans will be invited to the spring event. We have found five more Purple Heart Recipients from the 43357 zip code but would like the community's help to find others that may have been missed. Any new Purple Heart Veterans will have stones placed at the Veterans Park. Please help us recognize all these veterans. Thank you for your help in identifying these West Liberty heroes. And to all of our veterans, Thank You For Your Service!

WL Fire Department

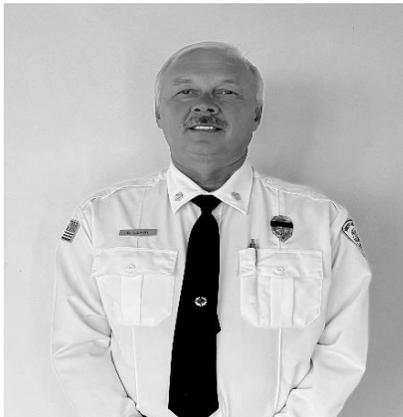
100th Anniversary:

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of our Fire Department. In honor of this historic event, we will be recognizing the WLFD Chiefs each month in the newsletter.

January: Darin Leach

My name is Darin Leach, and I am serving as the current fire chief for West Liberty FD. I have been a part of the fire service community for 31 years, 21 of which have been on the West Liberty FD. I am currently certified as a firefighter level 2, fire safety inspector, fire investigation, and NFPA 1403 live fire instructor. I previously held certification as a basic EMT. I also provide fire instruction with Clark State Community College.

I have been married to my lovely, supportive wife Laurie for 32 years. Together, we raised three beautiful, intellectual girls: Ashley (Alex) McCurdy, Courtney (Logan) Zuk, and Rachel (Weston) Renner. We also currently have two grandchildren, Rowan and Iris. I have always enjoyed providing community service, and I am happy to have the opportunity to make our department one the community can be very proud of. This would not be possible without the support and sacrifice of my fellow firefighters and their families. I feel very fortunate to be able to call on them 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to help a person in distress. Our dedicated crew is certainly a blessing to our community.



7 Sees West Liberty – WHIO TV 7 and WHIO Radio

<https://www.whio.com/news/7-sees-west-liberty/b52f431d-0de3-44f0-8db3-c562981e02da/>

WL Street Department:

I urge the residents to take advantage of the Village alert system. This will keep you updated on leaf collection, street work, street sweeping, changes in trash collection and other important events going on in the Village.

If you are signed up but not receiving these alerts or have not signed up please call the Village office 937-465-2716 for this free service. You can choose to be notified by home phone, text or e-mail.

Trash Collection

Trash collection is not affected by any Holiday unless your trash day falls on that date. If it would fall on these dates then collection will be the following work day. Any other changes to trash collection days you will be notified by the alert system.

Why do the plows block my driveway with snow?

The primary goal of plowing is to remove snow from streets so that the road is open and safe for vehicular traffic. Plowing pushes snow to the side of the street and unfortunately this results in snow piling up in front of driveways. Snowplows push snow to the right of the travel lane and the driver has no control over this. Also, the driver cannot stop or raise the plow at each driveway as this would leave a pile of snow in the roadway. Residents are advised to wait until the plow has been through their road prior to cleaning their driveway and mailbox area. If drifting or more snow occurs the plows may have to make multiple passes on a road at a later time to keep the road clear. If possible, plow drivers will try to prevent excessive blockages at driveways but at times this is not possible. If you shovel snow out into the street from your driveway when plows come by again it will get pushed into your freshly cleared driveway. To prevent this shovel your snow to the sides of driveway and not into the street. Please remember that the clearing of driveway, sidewalk and mailbox areas is the responsibility of the home owner. If possible, keep vehicles off the street so we can clear snow all the way back to the curbs. This prevents ice buildup in curbs and flooding when snow melts. If you have no off-street parking, once you see the other side of street cleared completely back to curb, immediately move your vehicle to that side of cleared street.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Bill Detrick

Street Dept. Superintendent



WL City Council

We Don't Burn Bridges; We Fix Them
Hope for the Columbus St. Bridge

Several years ago, due to unsafe conditions, the bridge crossing the railroad on W. Columbus St. was closed. At first it was closed to vehicular traffic. Only months later, it was deemed that the bridge needed to be closed to pedestrian traffic as well. This happened as a result of county and state bridge inspections requested by the "then" mayor and West Liberty Village Council out of concern for the bridge's stability.

Even though the bridge was closed, it has remained on the minds of council members down through the years. The closed bridge is unbecoming to the beautiful Dodge Park and the residences that surround it. It's condition lowers property values. The bridge is crumbling and will one day collapse if nothing is done to restore it to some kind of working structure. Mayor McKelvey and the council have partnered with Korda, an engineering firm from Columbus, for several years concerning the bridge. As you can imagine, the cost of fixing or replacing a bridge is pretty prohibitive, but the time has come for all residents and friends of West Liberty to have a little hope that our bridge might spring to life again.

After realizing that we had missed the window of time to get grant monies to restore the bridge as vehicular, the council went full throttle into a request for a TAP (Transportation Alternative Program) grant from ODOT. This grant would enable us to "fix" the bridge for use by pedestrians and bicyclists. If awarded, it would provide 95% of the construction costs for the bridge. There are expenses that it won't cover; engineering, surveys, studies, and our 5%. West Liberty would still be responsible for those, but overall this is an attractive offer that we'd like to take advantage of.

In early November, Korda submitted a letter of interest to ODOT on our behalf for a pedestrian/bicycle bridge grant to provide children, families and visitors access from the far west side of town to the east side via Columbus St.

The moment ODOT received our letter of interest, (it was emailed) we heard back from them that our Columbus St. Bridge was on a list of historical bridges in Ohio with a note beside it, "Needs further evaluation." Very interesting!

We had collected and sent several letters from citizens who were very much in favor of seeing the bridge fixed. Korda made contact with some bridge historians who were able to provide some letters with other information. Their interest was in restoring the bridge. It seems that our bridge, built in 1879, is a Pratt pin-connection pony truss bridge. We knew this. But we found out that it is apparently the only pony truss bridge constructed by the Ohio Bridge and Iron Works Company out of Urbana.

Because of the support from our residents and the discovered historical connection, we have been formally invited by ODOT to apply for the ODOT TAP grant. Our next step will be to work with Korda to get a more detailed construction cost. Korda will consult with others to gain more historic understanding and then Korda will officially submit our grant request.

I am hoping we can start a community group to help discover and maintain the history of the bridge as well as raise funds to offset the costs to the village. I think this can be a lot of fun and very worthwhile for those of us who love our village now and appreciate uncovering what those from the past did to make us what we are today. If you would be interested in this or if you have any questions about the bridge or the grant, you can contact me at j.griffith@mywestliberty.com. I look forward to speaking to you!

Jayne Griffith, 2022 Council Member

WL Village Clerk/Secretary

Notice of Public Hearing

The West Liberty Village Council of Logan County, OH, will hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Village of West Liberty Zoning Ordinance on 17th day, January, 2022, at 6:30 PM at the Village Hall in the Opera House. The building address is 201 N. Detroit St. West Liberty, OH 43357.

The proposed amendments, initiated by motion of the Planning Commission, propose to amend the text of the Zoning Ordinance. The proposal amends Article II Definitions and creates a new section titled "General Conditions for **Medical Marijuana** Entities". The proposal would add **Medical Marijuana** related definitions and **prohibit** medical marijuana entities. The text and map(s) of the proposed amendment will be available for examination in the Village Hall in the Public Restroom Foyer. Copies available online at <https://www.mywestliberty.com/>.

Sherman Ricketts Parklet Update

Anyone in West Liberty and the surrounding area that knew my Uncle "Sherm", and would like to donate to his memorial can do so by contacting The Peoples Savings and Loan. We are currently collecting donations for the new shelter house. Thank you in advance.

Karen Beasley is the architect from Bellefontaine . The Ohio High Point Career Center class and instructor David Marstella will be the builders. Once we have the construction permits, we will have the groundbreaking.

We will keep you updated with other projects as things move along.

Our plan is to have a rededication of the Sherman Ricketts Parklet on the 60th Anniversary of Marshall Sherman Ricketts on June 29, 2022.

Thank you for considering to donate to the shelter house phase of the Parklet.

Beverly Ricketts Yoder

Linda Vernon Long

Logan County Land Trust

WL Christmas Tour of Homes 2021 - WL Opera House

Photo Credit Nick Davis/Small Nation



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