

201 N. Detroit St. PO Box 187

West Liberty, OH 43357

937-465-2716

January 2023

Mayor Jill C. McKelvey

Happy New Year



Utility costs are on everyone's mind and because the village was able to pass in November 2022 the Aggregation for gas and electric, questions are being asked. With this in mind here are answers to the most frequently asked questions:

We are required to have **two** more meetings regarding the aggregation and we will begin these meetings in January/February.

- a) Aggregation gives us a bigger group in order to get the best rate for gas AND electric
- b) Residents should be cautious about signing up with a gas or electric provider at this time. The Village should be able to provide a better rate for gas and electric than what door to door salespeople are selling. If you feel confident about the rate, just make sure you may end the contract with no penalty. This would allow you to join the aggregation group without paying any type of fee to that gas or electric company.
- c) Residents will be able to decide if they would like to opt out of each separately (example: resident may opt out for electric but stay in the group for gas) at any time even after the opt-out period.
- d) The opt -out letter will only go to folks who are currently directly with the utility. Other individuals will have to keep an eye out for the price and you can opt-in at any time but be sure to look at your current contract terms and conditions first. This information will be in the newsletter, on the website, and on the sign at Town Hall.
- e) Residents may opt out of at no cost from the aggregate group; if a resident has an individual agreement with a utilities company, please read your contract to see if there is a penalty for leaving the contract early.
- f) Small business owners are also included in the aggregation and may also opt out of electric or gas at no costs.
- g) Logan County Commissioners will act as our agent for purchasing and as an aggregator which means they will work with Palmer Energy to find us the lowest rates possible.
- h) Our goal is to have some rates by early spring. As more information becomes available you will be notified via the newsletter, mywestliberty.com website and the Town Hall sign.

If you have further questions, please contact the Clerk's Office at 937.465.2716 or mayor.mckelvey@mywestliberty.com or Bob Snavely from Palmer Energy at bsnavely@palmerenergy.com

Clerk's Corner

December was full of excitement and wonder around the Village. Many people lined the streets to see the Christmas parade. Afterwards, children waited excitedly to visit with Santa in the Gazebo. It was a magical morning as children enjoyed cocoa and cookies with Santa in the Opera House. Pictures colored by the children, for the holidays, adorned the City Building walls, and many Businesses in town.

Small Business Saturday brought many folks to the village for shopping, to include a pop-up-shop to raise money for the Columbus Street Bridge Restoration project.

Business Association's Holiday Tour of Homes brought many visitors to the Village as they were delighted by the Airbnb's and home on Tour. Shops in town were open late, and visitors could enjoy a horse drawn carriage ride. There were Choirs singing Christmas Carols for your listening enjoyment in The Opera House. The Village was filled with a true home town Christmas spirit .

The West Liberty Fire Department was recognized by the Mayor and Council for their 100th Anniversary.

Cindee Boyd
Clerk/Treasurer
937-465-2716



Clerk's Corner Continued:

Dog tags can be purchased at Thoman's IGA on Friday, January 6th, 2023 from 3:00 to 6:00 PM.

The Village Office will be closed on January 16 to observe Martin Luther King Jr. day.

Municipal Tax packets will be available soon at the Town Hall Office and the Library. Or you can go to Rita.com.

Contractor Registration is due January 15th, extended. If you have not already sent your registration in, please do so. See Clerks office for more information.

Village Alert System: 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

This will keep you updated on leaf collection, street work, street sweeping, changes in trash collection, recycling and other important events going on in the Village.

January Business Anniversaries:

Solomon's Garage, People's Savings & Loan and Hillside Greenhouse. Congratulations to all.

The Quarterly "Drip"

Dear Residents of the Village of West Liberty,

We are excited to announce some upcoming projects for the village. The first project we will be completing is utility mapping, which will include mapping out our water mains, fire hydrants, system valves, water curb stops for individual homes, as well as sewer manholes and catch basins and existing storm drains. This will help us better understand and maintain our infrastructure.

In addition, we will be replacing 30 fire hydrants and adding watch valves to our system. This will help ensure that our firefighting capabilities are up to date and effective.

The wastewater department is also planning an Inflow and Infiltration study, which is the first step towards determining how to proceed with a larger project to improve our wastewater infrastructure. There are also a few smaller repairs that will be made in conjunction with this larger project in order to take advantage of economy of scale.

We understand that these projects may cause some inconvenience, but we assure you that they are necessary in order to maintain and improve our water and wastewater systems. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work to improve the infrastructure of our village. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

More information will follow.

Brad Hudson Water/Wastewater Superintendent

P.S. Did you hear about the sewer worker who got a promotion? Now he's the "sewage manager"!

From the Fire Chief: Darin Leach

Below are some statistics for the 2022 year. We had set a record for fire responses for the 2022 year.

Total runs for the year; (As of time this was written)	280
Total Structure fires for year;	27
Total fire call responses	57
Total Rescue, EMS type incidents	90
Total mutual aid responses given	36
Total Mutual Aid received	9
Hazardous Material type incidents	22

Our average response time from dispatch to enroute is 4.5 minutes

Our average response time from dispatch to on scene is 10.5 minutes

Our total coverage area is 138 square miles

Your volunteers have over obtained over 1000 manhours of training, as well as over 2000 hours in meetings, community service and other public service type events. This does not include the hours provided for responding to actual calls. We wish to thank the community for their support and the ability to allow us to have the equipment to help keep the community safe.

Darin Leach
Fire Chief
West Liberty Fire Department
201 N. Detroit St, West Liberty, 937-465-3989

Jayne Griffith Council Member

I hope every family and resident in the beautiful village of West Liberty had a Merry Christmas. The village was alive and well during the Christmas season! The businesses were bustling and the streets were busy. Santa made a number of visits! So much good will! It was delightful to see and to be a part of it. Kudos to the West Liberty Business Association for playing such a big part. And many thanks to our residents in the village and surrounding areas who share and care no matter what the season. I have it on good authority that plans are already being made for the Christmas season of 2023. It will not disappoint!

The Columbus Street Bridge Group had a prosperous Christmas season as well. Being able to hold a Pop-Up Christmas shop at the old Tigers Den, thanks to the generosity of Bob and Cyndi McClure, proved to be very beneficial. It was a great time to share information about the closed bridge on West Columbus St. We made some money for it's reopening, and had a lot of fun doing it! Many people donated items that they'd bought, but never bothered to use (I had a lot to give!). They also donated slightly used articles, hand crafted items, and baked goods. Over two weekends, we were able to raise over \$1000 in sales! Thank you to all who donated and to all who bought! This was such a fun project!

We were able to raise \$550 with a silent auction as well. We offered a framed poster, autographed by all four main entertainers at the 2022 Country Legends Concert, donated by Country Legends, a handcrafted bench made by Joe Smucker with scrap wood from our past Christmas tree, and a football autographed by the very successful coach of Alabama Crimson Tide, Nick Saban.

We were able to fly Christmas flags down town that were sponsored by Logan Lawn & Landscaping LLC., Friends from the Village of Anna, The Columbus St. Bridge Group, and some anonymous individuals.

We're hoping to have a sketch created that will show what the reopened bridge will look like. Our goal is to have it opened to pedestrians and bicycles as soon as possible. It won't be tomorrow or next month, but we're pushing forward to reach the goal. We continue to dream of children and their families safely cycling or walking on the bridge to get to ball games at Dodge Park. We think of foot races crossing over it, bicycle tours using it, and our state performing cross country and track kids practicing over it... for years and years to come. We can only imagine the stories that will cross over this bridge.

We welcome participation from anyone interested in reopening the bridge. I can be reached at j.griffith@mywestliberty.com or 937.367.3317. Donations to the W. Columbus St. Bridge can be made at People's Savings and Loan in West Liberty. Many many thanks to all who have given so far!

Wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year!

Why do the plows block my driveway with snow?

The primary goal of plowing is to remove snow from streets so that the streets are 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 street prior to cleaning their driveway and mailbox area. If drifting or more snow occurs the plows may have to make multiple passes at a later time to keep the street 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 one side of street cleared completely back to curb, immediately move your vehicle to that side of cleared street

Motorists please use caution around plow trucks. The plows travel slower than other vehicles, reduce your speed and don't crowd the trucks.

Keep your distance from trucks that are plowing or spreading salt/grit. Frequent backing is necessary during operations and visibility to the rear of truck is very restricted.

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.

Have a safe winter.

**Thank you, Bill Detrick
Street Dept. Superintendant**





216 North Detroit St. 937-465-0580 Open Tuesday thru Saturday 10am-4pm Closed Sunday & Monday

Article by Heather Chamberlain, Owner and CEO Theresa's Gingerbread House and WLBA President

We asked Tami some questions about her business to get to know her better:

Walking into Country Friends takes you into a beautiful, warm, inviting store where you can find unique gifts, antiques, fabulous home décor, lights, gifts and candles to decorate any area of your home! You are always greeted with a smile and a helpful hand from the owner, Tami Cox, or one of her employees who love to see you stopping in to shop! Tami purchased the old Graystone building in June of 2018. She did a complete renovation and opened the doors of Country Friends on November 2, 2018. Tami is a member at large of the West Liberty Business Association and serves our community in numerous ways through giving her time, energy, and money to making West Liberty a great place to live, work and be!

I started Country Friends 38 years ago, I have between 2-7 employees, depending on the time of year. I am a local place for the residents to purchase antiques and home decor for all their decorating needs throughout the seasons. The items carried are so unique and different from what other stores carry. I take the time to procure items I know my customers will want to add to their homes. They also like the fact that I make them feel right at home and ask about their families. I make it my goal to make everyone who enters feel like family, and says she has made many great relationships with my customers over the years. I am so thankful for all the support and friendships over the many years of my small business. It truly is a blessing to be able to share my passion with my customers.

Tami is currently the Member at Large of the WLBA. I sit on the events committee and help plan and oversee the events put on by the WLBA. I help the WLBA make the Village of West Liberty a place everyone likes to come to.

Tami's favorite thing about West Liberty is when it snows in the winter, it makes you feel like you're inside a snow globe.

When not at her business, Tami enjoys spending time with her boyfriend, her kids and grandbabies. She also enjoys gardening, swimming in her pool and riding her Harley.

Country Friends is open Tuesday-Friday 10 A.M.-5 P.M and Saturday 10 A.M. – 4 P.M. They are located at 216 N. Detroit St. West Liberty, OH 43357 (937) 465-0580. www.countryfriendsofohio.com We can ship anywhere in the USA. We offer a military discount everyday!



Start the New Year by ordering your WL

Apparel: sweatshirts, t-shirts, hoodies. All colors and sizes.



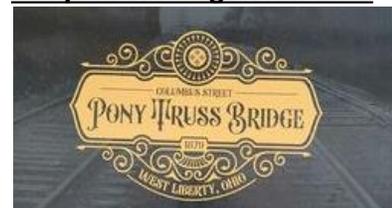
Order today !



Scan the QR code or go to.....

<https://villageofwl.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

Pony Truss Bridge Calendars



With the purchase of this calendar, you can help to restore this historical bridge. If you are interested, they can be picked up in Town Hall for \$10.00 cash/check.

