

The Village News



mywestliberty.com

201 N. Detroit St. PO Box 187

West Liberty, OH 43357

937-465-2716

July 2022

HAPPY
Independence
DAY

WL Mayor - Jill McKelvey:

It is great to feel the accomplishment of finishing a project around the house and yard. The feeling of finishing a goal is always a positive thing. The village is in the process of completing several projects. For example, I hope you have had the time to stop at the Purple Heart Memorial at Veterans Park. This beautiful reminder of our veteran's sacrifice has been completed with a sidewalk and parking lot. Just a few days ago we honored a fallen hero, Marshal Sherman Ricketts, with a ceremony and dedication of the shelter house at the Sherman Ricketts Memorial Park and Trailhead. In the future more amenities will be added but it is nice to have these completed for the community and visitors to enjoy. We are still working on our gathering veterans' stories project. The Purple Heart Veterans stories were recorded in March and shared on Memorial Day. On Flag Day June 14 we recorded stories from our Vietnam Veterans. Once again it was a day where I was humbled by these men who shared their stories. These recordings will all be shared at the www.mywestliberty.com website for the public to share. We will also be having an event on November 10th to honor all of our veterans. And we have many other projects in the works, stay tuned...

You can get this same feeling of accomplishment because the village recognizes homeowners who improve the looks of their properties. Since 2009 West Liberty has had a beautification award for residential properties. So if you have a neighbor or just a property you drive or walk by every day that you feel makes the village more beautiful, then you can nominate them for the residential beautification award. Nomination forms can be picked up at the Clerk's Office or online at www.westliberty.com. This year we will also be recognizing a business or civic organization for improving the aesthetics of their property. The curb appeal of our businesses has a great impression on the people driving through our village. Anyone may nominate a residence or business or civic organization or both for the West Liberty Beautification Awards. Once again nomination forms can be picked up at the Clerk's Office or online at www.westliberty.com. Nominations will be taken until August 1. Online voting at www.mywestliberty.com begins August 15 through August 29. Both winners will be announced at noon on Saturday, September 3 at the Labor Day Festival and then recognized at the September 12th Village Council meeting.

Do you have a service member that you would like a troop banner for? I'm sure you have seen the troop banners that hang in the village. These troop banners are hung up by Memorial Day and stay up until after Veterans Day. The village office and I have had requests to order more and we may have found a way to order more without a minimum number to order. With this in mind if you or a veteran you know would like to order one to hang in the village, please contact the Clerk's office. As of right now we are collecting information from interested individuals at the Clerk's office in order to see how many we would need. The number we would need will impact the price. As of right now the cost for the individual banner to hang with the brackets, is \$115. Please let the Clerk know as soon as possible so that we may get these ordered and up later this summer. We do have a request from the community. We need some help hanging these troop banners. Currently we have two committed community members but if they had more help it would make the job more manageable. What is needed is help to hang the troop banners in the spring and take them down in late fall. If you would be willing to help with this project, please contact Councilwoman Patty Kauffman at p.kauffman@mywestliberty.com OR Jayne Griffith at 937.367.3317. Your help can make a difference. It truly takes all of us to create such a wonderful place to live and visit. Thank you for all you each do to make West Liberty great!! Thank you for being a Good Neighbor.

And a big thank you to the community for helping each other out after the big windstorm on June 13. Our employees worked hard to help pick up the brush but all of us working together helped clean up the debris and make the village able to function. So from me to you, Thank You For Being A Good Neighbor!!

WL Fire Department

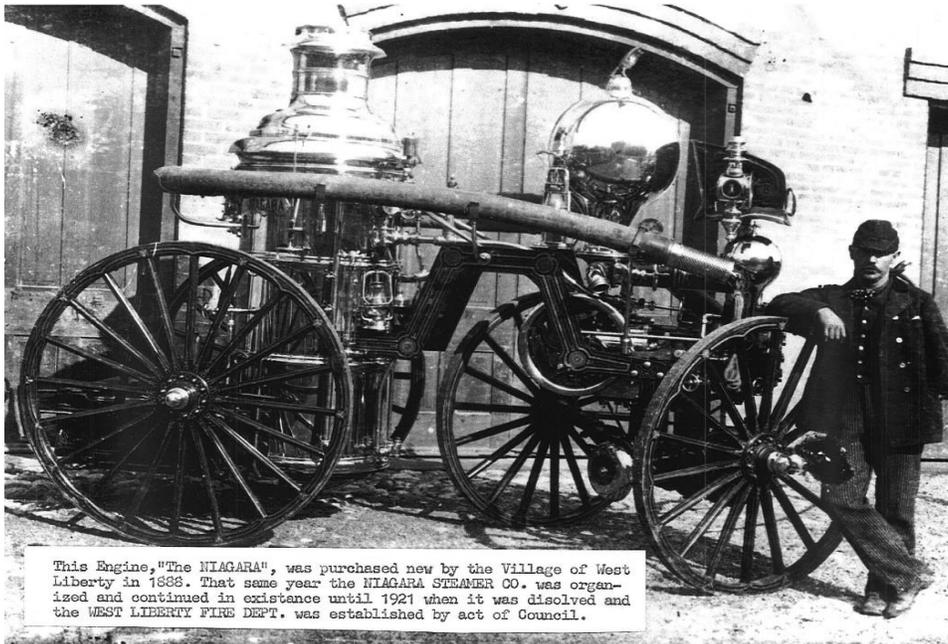
100th Anniversary:

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of our Fire Department. In honor of this historic event, we will be recognizing some WL Fire Department facts and info each month in the newsletters.

Source: Logan County Historical Society

July 2022: Niagra Fire Company

Article posted in the West Liberty Banner on Thursday, January 24, 1946



This Engine, "The NIAGARA", was purchased new by the Village of West Liberty in 1888. That same year the NIAGARA STEAMER CO. was organized and continued in existence until 1921 when it was dissolved and the WEST LIBERTY FIRE DEPT. was established by act of Council.

WL Village Council:

Raccoons are cute, but their looks are deceiving. Raccoons can be very destructive and can be carriers of diseases. They can get into your trash, hurt your pets and even more, move into your attic or out buildings. We have had many raccoon sightings this spring. Given all the shredded orange trash bags we've seen recently, it's fair to say that raccoons are responsible for quite a bit of it. So what can we do to deter these cute, but destructive pests? Keep your trash inside as long as possible. If you need to set it out the day before trash pick up, you might consider spraying it with a good dose of peppermint oil mixed with water or a spray made with onions and peppers. Keep your yard free from unnecessary clutter. Check the exterior of your house for any possible openings that might invite a family of raccoons to take up residence in your home. If you discover that you have raccoons in your attic, basement or living area, this is an issue best handled by a professional. We have a few references at the village office if needed, but an online search reveals that we are blessed with several wildlife professionals in the area. If you see raccoons in your neighborhood, please contact the Clerk's Office or email me, Jayne Griffith, at j.griffith@mywestliberty.com and let us know the vicinity and number of raccoons. Even though home owners are responsible for any problems they have with raccoons, we're trying to assess the raccoon population and activity in our town. Thanks so much and God bless.

Jayne Griffith

WL Village Council President

The Old Timer Asks You—

Do you remember the "Niagra Fire Company"? That was the original name of the West Liberty Volunteer Fire Department. It was organized in 1890 and took the name of the new steam fire engine, the Village Council purchased at that time. The "Niagra" was a nickel-plated upright engine, mounted on a hand drawn truck, and when those firemen came running down the street, pulling the shining engine and hose cart, it was indeed a thrilling spectacle, never to be forgotten.

The Niagra Fire Company was limited to twenty members and there was always a waiting list. When it was first organized, they served without pay, but later the Council granted them annual compensation of fifteen dollars each, which was paid them just before Christmas. Some of the old-time members have stated, that there were many times when even that small check helped a lot to give them a Happy Christmas.

The Company kept the name "Niagra" for nearly thirty years, when the old steamer gave way to a new Howe gasoline pumper and Ford truck, which has given valuable service for more than twenty-five years, and is still on reserve duty. A Ford chemical truck had also been acquired and these two outfits constituted the equipment until an agent came into the community, and negotiated the sale of the Reo truck with Howe pumper. The original plan was for this truck to be paid for by the rural residents of the community, who were to pay a prescribed amount each for certificates entitling them to fire protection service. The Village was to house and keep up the equipment and the Fire Company to operate it. For various reasons the plan failed and the Village Council purchased the truck outright when it was sold for indebtedness. It was recently traded in on a new outfit, consisting of a triple combination pumper, made by The American Fire Apparatus Co., and mounted on a Dodge truck.

But to get back to the volunteer firemen. When improved equipment came into use, the company was reduced to ten members with an auxiliary list available. There have been small increases in pay, but these have not amounted to enough to be an inducement to join the company. The supreme incentive back of this organization, from the beginning, has been a community spirit that is commendable. There surely have been one hundred or more who have served in this capacity, some for more than twenty years. As a complete list is not available no names will be given, in order that all may receive equal acclaim.

Thoughtlessness often causes ingratitude. The next time the fire alarm is given on a cold winter night, and we get up to assure ourselves that it is not our own or our neighbor's home that is on fire, when we crawl back into our warm beds, would be a good time for some thinking. Scattered over town are ten men, with no more obligations as citizens than the rest of us, yet when that siren sounds they spring from their beds, jump into their clothing, rush to the fire truck room, and proceed to the fire. It may be in some part of town or miles out in the country. They lose their night's rest and expose themselves to the icy water and freezing temperature, all to save somebody's home. Our sincere gratitude is the only recompense we can offer these men for their faithful service to the community and they deserve it unreservedly.

WL Business Association Business of the Month - July 2022

Stoner's Ice Cream Parlor

100 S. Detroit St.
West Liberty, OH 43357
937-465-5950
Hours: 12pm - 8:00pm
Owners:



Jeff & Kelli Stoner, WL Mayor Jill McKelvey,
WL Village Council Members & Clerk

WL Street Department:

Within the last month during storms there have been two large trees fall across East Baird Street. Luckily no one was injured as if these would have fallen on a vehicle or pedestrian there could have been serious injury or even death. By Village ordinance, all trees along any street and alleys are the resident's responsibility to maintain. All branches extending over the street must be cut to a minimum height of 14 feet and trees in bad condition must be removed. Branches that are overhanging sidewalks must be cut to a minimum height of 8 feet. Many trees within the Village have low hanging branches that hit the Fire, trash and recycling trucks and must be trimmed. This is for the safety of everyone and I strongly urge you to inspect your trees and take corrective measures as needed. As tree roots damage the curbs, sidewalks and streets no new trees are permitted to be planted between the sidewalk and curb.

A few words about storm damage debris.

The Street Department picks up storm debris which consists of limbs and branches. Whole trees that fall are the home owners responsibility to have cut up and removed by a tree service. When setting out storm damage, limbs must be cut to 8ft length and piles are to be laid parallel to the street so we can pick them up with the tractor. Limbs thrown randomly in a pile are very difficult to pick up and slows down cleanup efforts. As of the writing of this newsletter the Street Department has removed 68 dump truck loads of debris for the last storm. For perspective, a normal week results in 6 dump truck loads of brush being taken to our dump site.

West Columbus Street from Reynolds Street to Dodge Park has been in bad deteriorating condition for years. We have been working hard to get this second phase of street reconstruction finished and its finally going to happen! The construction will consist of new curbs, catch basins ,grinding out old asphalt and repaving. Sidewalks will also be replaced as needed. This is great news to these residents and to all the people who use this street to access Dodge Park. This project should start in late spring of 2023 and may take several months to complete.

West Liberty Street Supervisor
Bill Detrick

WL Village Clerk:

Logan County Alerts

Complete the registration process on-line
Logan County EMA homepage at
www.co.logan.oh.us/201/Emergency-Management-Agency



Upcoming Events

All events and info : www.mywestliberty.com

4th of July - Independence Day

8th Annual Young Life Memorial Run

Lions Club Park
Saturday 7/9 6pm - 8pm
6:45pm-7:30pm Registration/ Packet Pickup
7:30pm - National Anthem
7:40pm - Kiddie Rainbow Dashes (lanes will be painted to maintain distancing as well as heats if necessary)
7:50pm - Runners Staggered Starts Begin, Followed by Walkers
9:00pm - Raffle Drawings
9:15pm - Candle Lighting
9:30pm - Light Up for Life Lantern Release
Register: raceroster.com
then search **Young life Memorial**

24th Annual Ice Cream Social

Saturday 7/23 4:00pm -7:30pm
Location: WL United Methodist Church
202 W. Newell St. West Liberty, OH
All proceeds benefit former WL resident Matt Dernlan.
Menu: Noodles, Sandwiches, Desserts, & Homemade Ice Cream.
Questions: Nancy Dowden 937-465-4219

Piatt Castle Mack-A-Cheek:

Castle Camp

July 20 - 22

The Art and Science of Nature

Sunday, July 31, 2022, 11:00am – 4:00pm
www.piattcastle.org
for more information and tickets prices.