

# The Village News

mywestliberty.com

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June 2022

## WL Mayor - Jill McKelvey:

This month we celebrate a true hero, Marshal Sherman Ricketts. Marshal Ricketts gave his life the morning of June 29, 1962 stopping a suspect in the act of committing a crime. To honor his memory, on the west side of town off of State Route 245, we have created the Sherman Ricketts Park and Bicycle Trailhead.

This newest park will give bicyclists a place to refill their water bottles, a fix-it station for bikes, and a shelter house with electricity to charge phones and electric bikes. We need to thank many groups for all the work they have done for the past months and year to make the park amenities ready for summer: Hi-Point Career Center students and staff for building the shelter house, the gardens created by WL-S Environmental class, Benjamin Logan Science Club, and the DeGraff Garden club, preparation of the garden areas by Logan Lawn & Landscaping, the Simon Kenton Pathfinders for the Bicycle Fix-It Station, Mary Rutan Foundation for the Water Bottle Filling Station, and Shane Long for the concrete work around the water bottle filling station and assemblage of the water bottle filling station. The family of Sherman Ricketts have been key to completing the park and supporting our vision of developing this green space.

The past two summers we averaged over 1,200 users a month on the Simon Kenton Bike Path. There are also two other bike trails that go through West Liberty, the Top of Ohio and Cardinal trails. Many of our residents are using the trails, as well as visitors from other areas in Ohio, the United States, and some international riders that fly to the USA and then ride these trails. The Simon Kenton Bike Path extends the Little Miami Trail corridor another 32 miles north from downtown Springfield to Bellefontaine, Ohio. The total ride from Bellefontaine to Cincinnati is around 113 miles. When those riders get off the path, it's nice to know that we have an amazing trailhead for all of us to enjoy.

On June 29, at 3:30 pm we will be dedicating the park amenities. From 4 pm to 7 pm that same day we will have a "Put A Lid On It" event to give and fit bicycle helmets for kids. Mary Rutan Hospital is helping with the fittings and the donations of the small bicycle helmets. The medium and large helmets came from a ODOT/Honda of America/American Academy of Pediatrics grant written by Clerk Cindee Boyd. We have a big event planned with food trucks, a ride along on the path with our bicycle patrol officers who will also be discussing bike safety. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, bike helmets prevent injuries and save lives but only 10-20% of children in Ohio wear bicycle helmets. The events are open to the public and the helmets are free for all children while supplies last. (We will have approximately 104 helmets in small, medium, and large. Bring your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews to get a helmet). So please join us on June 29th to honor the Ricketts family and of course enjoy the bike trails all year long.

## WL Fire Department:

Spring has finally arrived, and with that brings one of my favorite times as well as many others, Grilling Season. Around 64% of all households have at least one outdoor BBQ grill. Did you know the over 10,600 fires occur annually due to fires started by grills? The peak months for grill fires are July followed closely by June, May, and August. Over 19,700 people will go to the ER due to injuries involving grilling, including around 9500 people that must be treated for thermal burns each year. Fact: Gas grills contribute to a higher number of fires than charcoal grills. The Fire Department would like to offer a few tips for this grilling season.

Keep your grill at least 10 feet away from your home or deck railing while grilling.

Never grill under a canopy, umbrella, or other roof as an accidental flare up of grease vapors could aid in the ignition of a house fire. Always keep your propane turned off when not in use. When lighting, open lid, turn burner 1/3 on and press ignitor button, if the grill does not light within 10 seconds, Stop! shut off burner and wait 5 minutes for gas to dissipate before trying again. If using a gas grill, be sure to turn off propane tank first allowing the gas to burn completely out of the line before turning off burners. If using charcoal, only used an approved lighter fluid if needed. Never use gas, kerosene, or any other flammable liquids. Keep an ABC type extinguisher close by. You do not want to use water to extinguish a grease fire as it could aid in the spread of the fire. If you have a fire involving a grill, close the lid, shut off fuel source if safely possible and call 911 immediately. The sooner we can respond, the less likely there will be a major incident. The West Liberty Fire Department wishes everyone to have a safe and enjoyable summer.

**West Liberty Fire Chief**

**Darin Leach**

## WL Water & Waste Department: The Quarterly "Drip"

### **Water Dept. News**

We will begin flushing and flow testing fire hydrants in June.

If you have any questions or concerns, please send email to [b.hudson@mywestliberty.com](mailto:b.hudson@mywestliberty.com) or call 937.210.1652.

### **Wastewater Dept. News and Facts:**

We are starting to discuss a Master Plan for the Wastewater Dept. (Water Dept. as well) which includes Asset Management, Reduction in Inflow and Infiltration to sewers and planning for our next NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Permit. This permit renews every five years and usually becomes stricter over time. We will likely need to lower our Total Phosphorous discharge which could require us to do a treatment upgrade or dose additional chemical in to our wastewater treatment plant in order to settle the Phosphorous out of the water before it flows to the Mad River.

Wastewater Facts: The British Medical Journal conducted a poll asking what was the greatest medical milestone since 1840 (when the Journal was first published). Adequate sanitation was chosen as the winner, receiving more votes than breakthroughs such as the introduction of antibiotics, the development of anesthesia, widespread vaccinations, and the discovery of DNA. (7) Clean water and sanitation have likely saved millions -- perhaps billions -- of lives since widespread implementation in the 19th and 20th centuries. (8) In the late 1960s, *Time* magazine had declared Lake Erie dead because it had become so polluted. The Cuyahoga River and Buffalo River started on fire due to the high level of contamination. The U.S. Government Accountability Office estimates that water and wastewater utilities are not generating enough revenue from user rates to cover the full cost of their service. As a result, several utilities are starting to experience the effects of chronically postponed maintenance from funding shortfalls. (10)

In 2006, U.S. infrastructure was #6 on the World Economic Forum's ranking of best national infrastructure systems. By 2012, the ranking had fallen to #16. (11) It has been estimated that more than \$180 billion is needed to repair or replace U.S. water, wastewater, and storm water systems. Investing in water infrastructure generally produces healthier communities, reduces water pollution, and is estimated to directly generate nearly 1.9 million jobs. An additional 800,000 jobs will come from increased economic activity in related sectors. (12) The average person spends three years of their life on the toilet (3) Most toilets flush in the key of E flat (3) We use an average of 57 sheets of toilet paper a day! (3) On a side note, my Father (on a fixed income and from a simpler time) brags about only needing a max of 3 sheets. He does use the good stuff though, and usually folds over for extra security. He may disown me for telling this story.

**Brad Hudson**

**Water/Wastewater Superintendent**

<https://www3.erie.gov/dsm/interesting-facts>

### WL City Council:

Jill and I moved to the area 45 years ago this summer and chose West Liberty to be our home community. A year later when out-of-state friends made a surprise visit and we were not at home, they went into the Ice Cream Parlor, then a new venture owned by the McCord's, and asked the students working if they happened to know us. The workers not only said yes, but proceeded to give our friends directions to Lions Park because it was a softball night and we would be sitting on the first base line bleachers. That's where they found us. Summers have always been times for us to enjoy and appreciate the sense of community that is West Liberty. From ball games at Lions Park and Dodge Park, season beginning and ending parades on Memorial and Labor Days, bicycling or leisurely walks around town and on the Simon Kenton bike path, Lions fish fry's and community ice socials, Splash Pad, and fireworks, West Liberty provides so many opportunities to share with friends and families.

I encourage you to check out the schedule of community events at [MyWestLiberty.com](http://MyWestLiberty.com) and take the time to enjoy and celebrate our community and each other.

**Have a great summer!!**  
**Jim Hoffman**  
**Village Council Member**



## 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.



### June 2022: The Great Fire of 1880

On May 13, 1880 around 3:00 pm the business district of West Liberty suffered a major fire that destroyed 31 businesses in the downtown district. The bucket brigade of West Liberty residents could not contain the fire. Engines from Urbana and Bellefontaine Fire Departments were loaded on trains and shipped to West Liberty. A week later, village businessmen and citizens decided to purchase a fire engine to prevent another catastrophic fire. Eight years later (1888), West Liberty had its fire engine. In 1889 the Niagara Steamer Company of West Liberty was formed when its 19 dues-paying members signed the organization's constitution and bylaws.

The Niagara Steamer Company dissolved on December 28, 1922 and became the West Liberty Fire Department.

## **Sherman Ricketts Memorial Park Dedication :**

Grand Opening and Park Dedication for Sherman Ricketts Park will be on June 29, 2022

4:00 - 7:00 PM at 916 Sidney St. This is the 60th anniversary of Marshal Sherman W. Ricketts was shot and killed in the line of duty. The Village of West Liberty is celebrating the bike path by giving away Kids Bikes Helmets from Put A Lid On It Grant and Mary Rutan Hospital. Other fun activities will be Pig In A Pickle Food Truck, Snow Cones, West Liberty Fire Department, West Liberty Police Department, Logan County K-9 unit, and Rise FM Ohio Radio will be on location. Come out and join the fun!



## **Columbus Street Bridge Info:**

Unfortunately, we did not get the ODOT Transportation Alternative Grant to rehabilitate the Columbus Street Bridge, but we will continue to move on with this project. We'll pursue other avenues for funding and implement more fundraising ventures.

The 2023 Bridge Calendar, sponsored by several local businesses with featuring dates and times of local events is coming together very nicely. It should be available for sale in September or October for \$10 at WL Clerk's Office.

Anyone wishing to help with fundraising ideas and efforts can contact the Columbus Street Bridge Group by phone or text at 937-367-3317.

To donate, an account for the Columbus Street Bridge is available at The Peoples Savings & Loan Company in West Liberty.



## **WL Business Association Business of the Month - June 2022**

Writer: Bailey Kolb, Beighliebird Photography.

### **Thoman's IGA**

201 S. Detroit St.  
West Liberty, OH 43357  
www.thomans.iga.com.com  
937-935-3936  
Email: info@thomans.net



If you live in West Liberty, you've shopped at Thoman's IGA. Your grandparents and parents have shopped there too. Local families have utilized the store to supply a variety of special occasions and everyday needs for years. From BBQ's before the fireworks and waking up the house with delicious donuts, to filling our fridges with high-quality meats and produce, the Thoman family has been there for every generation of shopper since 1951.

Thoman's grocery store has always been a family owned business. Richard and Joe Thoman started the store in 1951 and became a part of the IGA Organization just one year later. Ten years following, they secured the lot where the store stands today. Richard and Joe's children all worked in the store over the years which paved the way for Stan to step into a leadership role with his sister Marilyn, who still serves as the produce manager. In 2000, Stan's son, Anthony, continued the next generation of family to work in the store, serving as assistant manager.

Full interview is available on mywestlibery.com

# Upcoming Events

All events and info : [www.mywestliberty.com](http://www.mywestliberty.com)

## Heaven's Dew

Friday 6/3 10am - 6pm

Heaven's Dew Agriculture & Healthy Home One Year Anniversary Celebration!

Open 10am-6pm with vendor demonstrations from 11am-3pm.

Visit Heaven's Dew's events page for more information!

<https://hdewag.com/events/>

## West Liberty Historical Society:

### Live Music in the Opera House

Saturday 6/4 6pm - 8pm

Live Music by "Just Friends"

Keith Levan, Kathy LeVan, & Bill Purk

No charge, donations are accepted

Rudy's Smokehouse food trailer will be available from 1-6pm by Town Hall sign

### Woman Up: Mobile Mammography

Friday 6/10 8:30am - 4pm

Mobile mammography is coming to West Liberty Town Hall (201 N. Detroit St.) on Friday, June 10, 2022 from 8:30am - 4:00pm. Call [\(937\) 523-9332](tel:9375239332) to schedule your appointment!

### Piatt Castle Mack-A - Cheek:

#### Youth Program: Fly Your Flag

Tuesday 6/14 4:00 – 4:30

\$5 youth (ages 5-15)

MFH Members save 20%

Explore the history, symbolism, and magic of the flag!

This program is for youth ages 5 to 15. During the program, accompanying adults may tour Castle Mac-A-Cheek at a discounted rate of \$11 for adults or \$10 for seniors.

Reservations recommended, visit events page at [www.piattcastle.org](http://www.piattcastle.org) for more information and tickets.

### Grace Chapel: Vacation Bible School

Join us for a fun-filled week of Vacation Bible School, June 13-17, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. daily, where we will learn about the value of life!

Age 5-8th grade. Register at [www.gracechapelwl.org](http://www.gracechapelwl.org)

## West Liberty Pride Parade

Saturday June 18 12pm

Join us for West Liberty's second Pride Parade.

Parade starts at Noon at the top of West Columbus Street (by the old high school) and end in the Lion's Park where a celebration with live performers and vendors will be held!

Help us all celebrate Pride and Visibility in our home town! For more details or to join, contact [loganboggs1864@gmail.com](mailto:loganboggs1864@gmail.com)

## Father's Day

Sun. 6/19

## WL Business Association: WL Summer Bash

Fri & Sat 6/24 & 6/25

There will be a car show, food trucks, a band, and vendors set up in downtown West Liberty.

More details coming soon!

## WL Lions Club: Fish Fry

Saturday 6/25 5pm - 7pm

The West Liberty Lion's Club hosts several Fish Fry fundraisers throughout the year at West Liberty Lions Club Park. Open to the public and all are encouraged to come out to the park, visit and have a good time and enjoy a meal. Adults meals are \$12. Children's meals are \$6. Proceeds are used to provide scholarships to graduating seniors from WL-S.

## The West Liberty Fourth of July Fireworks

Saturday 6/25

Fireworks begin at dusk at Lions Club Ballpark.

There are also softball games all day long at Lions Club Ballpark, and 10U & 12U baseball tournaments at Dodge Park. The West Liberty Fourth of July firework show is funded by The Village of West Liberty, Liberty Township, and local donations, and we are in need of donations. To donate, visit [The Peoples Savings and Loan Company](#) in downtown West Liberty and ask to donate to an account set up on behalf of the Fourth of July fireworks show. Several downtown businesses also collect in their shops for the fireworks.

## Piatt Castle Mack-A - Cheek:

### 19th Century Independence Day

Sunday, June 26, 2022

11:00am – 4:00pm

Free Outdoor Event. Registration not required.

Bring a picnic, buy a slice of Independence Day cake, learn how to play cricket and roll hoops. Enjoy historical tunes and storytelling about July 4th customs. Make "safe" firecrackers and watch them fly. Listen to the Declaration of Independence, watch musket firing, and help make the cannon boom.

This outdoor program is free and reservations are not required. The event will take place under tents in case of rain. Regular tour fees apply for facilitated, self-guided tours inside the Castle.

