



The Village News

mywestliberty.com

201 N. Detroit St. PO Box 187 West Liberty, OH 43357 937-465-2716

Mayor Jill C. McKelvey

May 2023

Now is a great time to review the "Be A Good Neighbor Guide". It lets you know what home improvements require permits and how to obtain them.

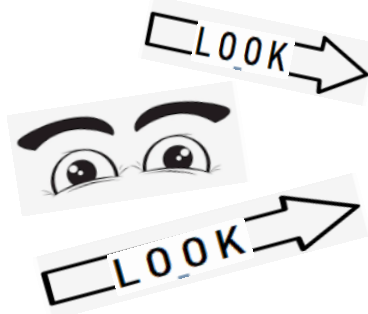
It reminds dog owners about the leash law and cleaning up after their pets when out for a walk.

While cleaning up the yard or garage this spring, the guide explains how to get rid of those unwanted items and whom to contact to get them picked up.

As you do improvements to your properties this summer, remember the nominations for the **Beautification Awards**. So please take before and after pictures for when your property is nominated. The winners receive a WLBA gift certificate, plaque, and recognition on social media. The Village has been awarding this since 2009.

The **Be A Good Neighbor Guides** were passed door to door April 2022 and are in the New Resident gift bags. If you are in need of one, please contact the Clerk's Office.

Mayor Jill



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Clerk's Corner

Opening day of the Splash Pad ! Sat. May 27th We can't wait to see you there ! 10:00 am to noon. Goodie bags for the first 50 children. Free bike helmets by: The Ohio Academy of Pediatrics - Put a Lid on it campaign. Mary Rutan will assist with proper bike helmet fitting, and sun safety. The West Liberty Fire Department, Police Department and Macochee will be there too ! Logan County Family and Children first will be hosting a free ice cream social. West Liberty Business Association will have free hot dogs, all at shelter house #1, by the concession stand. **IT'S ALL FREE !!**

Cindee Boyd
Clerk/Treasurer
937-465-2716
vowlclerk@mywestliberty.com



Culpepper & Merriweather Circus is coming to West Liberty Lions Park ! **Sunday May 21st** Shows at 2 and 4:30PM. Get your pre sale tickets now. \$13 for Adults & \$8 for children, 2-12 yrs old, & seniors, 65 and over. Starting an hour before the show, bouncy houses, a 22 ft slide, pony rides, face painting and a concession stand. Cash only for each attraction. Credit cards are only accepted at the ticket booth & concession stand. **A portion of pre-sale tickets goes to the W. Liberty Lions Club.**

Get Advance tickets @ The City Bldg & Stoners Ice Cream Parlor !

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- May 20th Annual Fire Sales in West Liberty. W. Liberty FD will host a pancake breakfast from 7-11 AM
- May 20th Lions Club Fish Fry! 5-7PM, at Lions Park.
- May 21st Culpepper & Merriweather Circus. 2 & 4:30 PM. Advanced tickets \$13 Adults, \$8 Children.
- May 27th, 10 AM Opening day of the Splash Pad ! See Clerk's Corner, above for all the details !
- May 29th, The Memorial Day Parade starts at the Old High School, ends at Town Hall.

West Liberty Business Anniversaries J&L Vernon Farms 60 Years ! Congratulations !!

Veteran's Trip to Dayton Airforce Museum:

Tuesday June 27th As a very special thank you to our local Veterans for their Service. We will be taking Veterans and a guest to the Dayton Airforce Museum. Transportation and a boxed lunch will be provided. Letters have been sent out to the Veterans that we are aware of, in the area. Please call the City Bldg at 937-465-2716 to RSVP and reserve your spot. We would love to have you with us and don't want to leave anyone out. Please call **937-465-271** for more information.

Veteran's Banners

As most of you have seen, a lot of the troop banners that we have up around the town have broken and/or falling down! I can assure you that your village council and mayor are aware of this issue and are working diligently to fix this problem.

The old troop banner brackets were made of PVC! Those brackets worked for a while but as they aged they became brittle and no match to the winds we've been experiencing lately! Another problem we had with the PVC brackets was the fact they had to be put up in the spring and taken down in the fall because the winter weather! They would've broken down quicker than what they did!

We are currently working with a machine shop and fabricating a metal bracket that would not only look amazing but it would be able to stay up all year! These brackets will take time to make but once they are done and up we shouldn't have any more problems with them! These new brackets will also be made where we can take the banners down in the winter and leave the brackets up, to preserve the life of the banners!

We are taking this matter very seriously and will have these banners back up as soon as we can! We respect each individual on these banners and know they mean a lot to the people of the village! They mean a lot to us as well! Any questions don't hesitate to email me at T.spriggs@mywestliberty.com!

Trent Spriggs: Village Council Member

Darin Leach Fire Chief

The West Liberty Fire Dept has honored volunteers for their years of service and dedication to the department. This year is no exception. We are fortunate to honor Bill Alig on 30 years of service to the West Liberty FD. Bill is a second-generation firefighter. His father Bill Alig Sr., was a Captain with the Vandalia Fire Dept.

Bill has three children, Billie, Bob, and Barbie along with their spouses. He also enjoys spending time with his nine grandchildren. Bill and his current wife Mary still reside in West Liberty. If you see Bill, please take a second to thank him for his dedication to serving the residents in and around the village of West Liberty.

Thinking about Volunteering!

The West Liberty FD is continually looking for persons, who are wanting and willing to dedicate time to help the residents of West Liberty. This is a great opportunity to serve and give back to your community. Interested applicants must be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or equivalent. You must be able to pass a fire Department physical, take the Firefighter I course and pass the state exam. If you are interested in joining, please stop by the fire department to pick up an application, or you can contact us by email at wlfiredpt@gmail.com or phone 937-465-3989 and leave a message.

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



Bill Alig

Darin Leach

Congratulations Bill Alig for 30 years of service to the West Liberty Fire Department !



937-465-4017 2210 East State Route 245 West Liberty, Ohio 43357 Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Article written and submitted by Brenda Snyder, WLBA Secretary

We would like to congratulate the West Liberty Business Association May 2023 Business of the Month Ohio Caverns.

The cavern was discovered on August 17, 1897 by a 17-year-old farm hand that was investigating a low spot on the farm he was working on. After digging to remove mud and debris, he discovered a crack in the Limestone bedrock. He widened that crack, lowered himself down into the earth, and explored the first 802 feet of the cavern with an oil lantern. This cavern entrance was on the property of Mr. Abraham William Reams. Mr. Reams opened the cave to local friends and family just ten days later on August 27, 1897, and opened to the public September 9, 1897. Early visitors explored the cavern by crawling with oil lantern light and experienced only about 1/3 of what we now know exists to the cavern system. Unfortunately, this 1/3 was severely damaged due to the lack of rules, so many formations were removed as souvenirs and visitor's wrote their names all over the walls and ceilings, which are still visible in that section today.

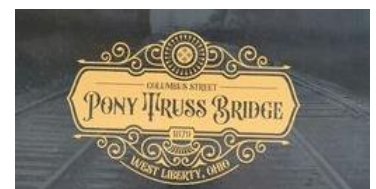
The Smith Family came up from Dayton and decided to invest in the property and make the cavern more accessible. They purchased the land across the road (where the present-day park resides) and Mr. Reams' property and cavern entrance by 1922. Over the next three years they dug out the cavern with the help of local farmhands, and carried mud and rock out of the cavern with buckets and shovels, creating walking paths and installing lighting along the way. This digging also revealed the deeper, more scenic areas of the cavern, which led to the closure of the heavily damaged (Historic) section in 1925. By Decoration Day (Memorial Day) 1925, Ohio Caverns was open just as we know it today. Tours remained the same from that point on until 2012, when we re-opened the Historic section, and a brand new handicap-accessible entrance to the public throughout the summer months. Ohio Caverns is known as "America's Most Colorful Cavern". It's exquisite mineral deposits, color, and pure-white formations are unlike most.

Ohio Caverns is open year-round. The cavern is always 54 degrees, so it is a great place to visit and explore year-round! During the peak season, Ohio Caverns employs 35-40 people, most of which are high school or college students. Many of our local schools, clubs, organizations, and families from across the globe visit us every day to see what the cavern has to offer. These people are also eager to explore and visit other local attractions, restaurants, and shops. With an average of over 60,000 visitors on an annual basis, it brings many new faces to our community!

Ohio Caverns hours are 10am-4pm October 1-April 30, and 9am-5pm May 1-September 30. Closed only on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

Be sure to stop in to Marie's Candies located at 311 Zanesfield Rd., West Liberty to enjoy Ohio Cavern's favorite treat, the Crystal Kings. Also, Stoner's Ice Cream Parlor will be featuring a sundae that is yet to be determined.

Pony Truss Bridge Calendars



Help to restore this historical bridge. Buy your calendar today! They are available at the Town Hall for \$10.00 cash/check.

Order today !

Welcome Spring by ordering your WL Apparel: sweatshirts, t-shirts, hoodies. All colors and sizes.



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