



# The Village News

mywestliberty.com

201 N. Detroit St. PO Box 187

West Liberty, OH 43357

937-465-2716

Mayor Jill C. McKelvey

October, 2023

The **October 6** WL-S Football game will see the Tigers hosting Mechanicsburg at Tiger Stadium, but the game is a **Pink Out** event in honor of our breast cancer survivors. Fans heading to the game please wear your pink clothing to honor our survivors from both WL-S and the 'Burg. The pre-game parade will start at 6:30 pm with the game following at 7 pm.



The **WLBA** is hosting the **Spooktacular** from **5 pm - 8 pm** on East Columbus Street on **October 26**. Events: inflatables, pumpkin carving and pumpkin painting, fall themed games (bowling, witch's hat ring toss, cauldron throw to name a few), face painting, balloon twisting, henna and glitter tattoo artists, a toddler area, cotton candy, and other kid friendly games. Andy Stidham is grilling 200 free hot dogs and there will be **food trucks!** All activities are free and open to the public. The Committee made up of Ashley Hager, Becca Hager, Alycia Brehm, and Chelsey Bray have raised over \$4,000 for this event thanks to our local businesses. Thank you to this committee for their hard work for a great event for kids and a big thank you to our local business owners who give back so much for our community!! For updated information go to [https://www.facebook.com/events/812849347085991?active\\_tab=about](https://www.facebook.com/events/812849347085991?active_tab=about).

**Trick or Treat** will be from **6 pm to 7:30 pm** in West Liberty and Logan County.



**West Liberty & Logan County  
Trick or Treat night  
Thursday Oct. 26th  
6-7:30 pm**

## A Message from West Liberty Lions Club

### Thank you!

Thank you to the exhibitors, the vendors, the concessionaires, the volunteers, the sponsors, the first responders, the kids, the parents, the concert staff, the performers, the tournament participants, the car show enthusiasts, the go-cart racers, the village employees, the behind the scenes workers, the friends, the families, the attendees, and to everyone else who doesnt fall into a specific category mentioned above.

We do what we do because of you and although we are completely exhausted when we return to our jobs on Tuesday, we smile knowing that we were able to be a small part of putting on another AMAZING Labor Day Festival for you! We have already made notes in preparation for the 59th in 2024. See you then!!!



## UPCOMING EVENTS:



Sat. Oct 7th - 10am-2pm  
Sat. Oct 7th - 11am-4pm  
Thurs. Oct. 26th 5-8pm  
Thurs. Oct. 26th 6-7:30pm  
Sat. Oct. 28th 4pm

3rd Annual Harvest Festival hosted by Heavens Dew  
Scholastic Chess Tournament Free Public Events at Piatt Castle Mac-A-Cheek  
West Liberty's Spooktacular  
West Liberty's Trick-Or-Treat Night  
Autumn games and Halloween Customs Free, Piatt Castle Mac-A-Cheek

For more information about any of these events go to [mywestliberty.com](http://mywestliberty.com)

## Village Updates

Five years ago two Councilmen, Jeremy Keller and Mike Hostetler, put forth the idea of putting in **crosswalks** at Thoman's and Leonard Street to allow safe crossings. These men pursued grant money through ODOT and were successful in the State of Ohio paying the full amount for each crosswalk. This summer the crosswalks were installed.

The **West Columbus Street Bridge** has been closed since 2013. Ten years ago ODOT informed the Village that the bridge must be closed to all vehicles and pedestrian traffic due to the holes in the deck and how unsafe the structure was. Unfortunately closing the bridge creates an eyesore for this part of the Village. There is no grant money for a vehicular bridge because of how long the bridge has been closed. There is grant monies for pedestrian/bicycle bridges. Councilwoman Jayne has been working on raising money for this project and is finishing up the 2024 calendar which will go on sale later this fall. With the previous money raised a firm was hired to write a grant to pay for a potential pedestrian/bicycle bridge. The TAP (Transportation Alternative Program) grant will be submitted later this year BUT we are in need of letters of support to the TAP program from residents and business owners on why this bridge needs reopened. If you are interested in writing a letter of support, you may drop them at the Village office, give them to Jayne, or email them to [j.griffith@mywestliberty.com](mailto:j.griffith@mywestliberty.com).

### The West Liberty Aggregation Enrollment

- 1.) Check the bill to see if a supplier is listed. Supplier will have a per kWh price listed (for electric) or a per ccf price listed (for gas.)
  - a. **For Electric:** if there is no supplier listed you should be automatically enrolled
    - i. Unless you are behind in payment to the utility or a PIPP (percentage of income payment plan) customer
  - b. **For Natural Gas:** a supplier will be listed. If it says "SCO" you are getting the utility price via the supplier. If "SCO" is NOT listed you are in a contract.
- 2.) If you are in a contract, contact the supplier and ask for details regarding the contract such as, term price and is there is a fee to leave.
  - a. If there is a fee to leave a decision needs to be made by the customer (you) to pay the fee to leave or wait out the contract
  - b. If there is no fee to leave the customer may enroll in the aggregation program at any time
- 3.) **Call Energy Harbor** (electric) to enroll the account at 1.866.636.3749
- 4.) **Call IGS Energy** (natural gas) to enroll at 1.877.353.0162

The **Floodplain maps** were shared at a community meeting in August. If you were unable to make it to that meeting, the maps are available to view in the Clerk's Office. These maps were approved by the Logan County Commissioners, State of Ohio, and FEMA. The Village was required to update the floodplain ordinance as well. All ordinances can be found at the website, [www.mywestliberty.com](http://www.mywestliberty.com), places around the Village (laundry mat, banks, Post Office, library, restroom area of Town Hall), and in the Clerk's Office.

The Village is working with the Land Bank and the Logan County Chamber to help with the removal of the old elementary school. The Village is applying for a Brownfield grant to help with the removal. Because of the hole in the roof the entire inside has been contaminated with asbestos which is why we cannot save any parts of the building and why removal is so expensive. The building is a hazard to that neighborhood and has been a place where kids are exploring (which is unsafe due to the rotting of the floors and the cave-ins of the top floors and the wild animals like the raccoons and black vultures which have made their home in the abandoned building). The police department patrols that area to make sure the building is secure but there are many broken windows and other areas of access. The **Brownfield grants** will become available later this year.

### Shane Oelker Police Chief

Halloween is just around the corner and the West Liberty Police Department is committed to ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone in our community.

Here are some important trick-or-treat safety tips to keep in mind:

- 1. Plan Your Route:** Before heading out, plan your trick-or-treat route in familiar neighborhoods. Let someone know where you'll be and when you plan to return.

## Shane Oelker Police Chief (cont.)

2. **Costume Safety:** Choose costumes that are flame-resistant and fit well. Ensure good visibility if wearing a mask, consider using makeup instead.
3. **Stay Visible:** Carry flashlights with fresh batteries and use reflective tape or glow sticks to be seen by drivers.
4. **Road Safety:** Always use crosswalks and look both ways before crossing streets. Make eye contact with drivers, if possible.
5. **Supervision:** Young children should be accompanied by a responsible adult, and older kids should trick-or-treat in groups.
6. **Inspect Treats:** Examine all treats for tampering or unusual packaging before consuming them. Avoid homemade treats from strangers.
7. **Stranger Danger:** Only visit well-lit houses and never enter a stranger's home. Trust your instincts and be cautious.
8. **Pet Safety:** Keep your pets indoors or in a secure area to prevent stress or harm during the festivities.
9. **Respect Property:** Be respectful of others' property, and do not engage in any form of vandalism or destructive behavior.
10. **Emergency Information:** Carry identification with emergency contact information, and make sure your phone is charged for communication.
11. **Drive Safely:** If you're driving on Halloween, be extra cautious and drive slowly in residential areas. Watch for children crossing the streets.

**Remember**, the safety of our community is a shared responsibility. By following these guidelines and looking out for one another, we can ensure that Halloween remains a fun and safe tradition for all. If you ever have concerns or need assistance, don't hesitate to contact the West Liberty Police Department.

Wishing you all a spooky, safe, and happy Halloween!

Sincerely,  
Shane Oelker  
Chief of Police  
West Liberty Police Department  
937-465-2801 ext 101  
soelker@westlibertypolice.org

## Trent Spriggs Councilman

With Veterans Day around the corner I'd like to update everyone on the veteran brackets/banners! Over the summer we had a lot of the old brackets break and fall! This was not something your council took lightly and we've been working on a solution for awhile! We had new brackets made that will be hung and stay up year around! These brackets are made of metal and can withstand the weather! These new brackets will be delivered towards the end of September and will be hung by Veterans Day! We think you will like these new brackets and we look forward to hanging the banners back up to honor those who gave so much!

Another thing I wanted to address is October being breast cancer awareness month! There's a lot of activities going on in the village to honor the survivors! I'd like to take a minute and stress to be proactive about your health! Schedule your screenings, do self exams! There isn't an age limit for cancer! My wife was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2014 at 30 years old! There's no such thing as being too young!

Have a safe and happy fall!  
Trent Spriggs

**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 snow removal, leaf collection, street work, street sweeping, changes in trash collection, recycling and other important events going on in the Village.

## **Keith Amlin Water/Sewer Superintendent**

Once again the question has come up, what can I flush down the toilet? Unfortunately, we here at the wastewater department do not participate in the slogan "if it fits, it ships!".

There are only THREE things that can be flushed .

- 1) Is "number 1"
- 2) Is "number 2"
- 3) Is toilet paper.

To avoid problems such as a call to the plumber do not flush ANYTHING else. Even if it's advertised as "flushable" it creates a problem in your pipes or ours. All other items must go in a waste can. Wipes, cotton products, menstrual products, cigarette butts, hair, gum, pet waste, fish tank rocks and dentures just to name a few. Also, unused medicines is a no no.

This includes down the garbage disposal as well. The only thing that can safely go down the kitchen sink is water and ice cubes. Any food scrapes including coffee grounds, egg shells, grease, fruit and vegetable peels will eventually cause problems.

These "never to be flushed" items coagulate with what grease that naturally goes down the drain from dishwashing and lint that escapes down the clothes washer drain along with hair and excessive toilet paper a couple of hair berets a tooth paste cap or two and you now have a clogged sewer line!

As if it couldn't get any worse, something new has been brought to our attention is "flushable kitty litter". Please do not flush kitty litter down the drain. Kitty litters are designed to "clump" when they become wet. Some are even made from bentonite clay. Bentonite clay is also used to seal off abandoned water wells. When it gets wet it swells and hardens like cement. So, flushing kitty litter will surely not end well.

**Thank you,  
Keith Amlin**

## **Bill Detrick Street Superintendent**

There is currently a full time position open on the Street Department. If you are interested in applying stop at Town Hall for more information and an application. The last day applications will be accepted is October 13th.

**Leaf season** will soon be upon us. Here are a few instructions that will help us get your leaves picked up in a timely matter:

Do not put leaves in the street as this is against Village Ordinances. Leaves placed in street can be a traffic hazard, they also get run over by traffic and can be impossible to pick up and will clog storm drains when it rains which can cause flooding. Place leaves as close as possible to the street but not in the street or in the gutter. If possible make a long row instead of one large pile.

-Leaf piles raked close to trees, mailboxes, sign posts, fire hydrants etc. can't be reached with the machine, so please avoid raking your piles near these items. Also do not park cars in front or close to leaf piles.

-Sticks, yard waste, etc. placed in the leaf pile can clog and damage the machine. When this happens we have to take time remove the blockage which sets us behind schedule.

-Please do not rake trash, paper or other waste of any kind in with leaves as this is against EPA regulations.

We pick up leaves most days of the week. If your leaves aren't out when we go by your house it may be a week before we get back as it takes time to cover the whole town when leaves are falling heavily.

By following these guide lines we can pick up your leaves faster and more efficiently.

**Thank you for your cooperation  
Bill Detrick  
West Liberty Street Dept.**



937-465-308 111 North Detroit St. West Liberty, Ohio 43357

Article written and submitted by Brenda Snyder, WLBA Secretary

We would like to congratulate Liberty Gathering Place for being selected the West Liberty Business Association's September 2023 Business of the Month. The LGP restaurant is located at 111 N. Detroit Street in downtown West Liberty, Ohio.

New owners, Ashley Shaffer and Eric Karn purchased the restaurant from Cindy Oelker in March 2023. Ashley works full time in the business. Eric is a food safety auditor as well as owning ETK Dumpsters. They currently have approximately 10 employees.

Liberty Gathering Place was established in 1995 in the former Dajolee's Restaurant location. Before Dajolee's, the restaurant was called The Betty Lane Restaurant, which opened in 1941 and was run by Cora Saltz. In 1958, the restaurant was sold to Rose Emma Smith and her son Dan. The name was changed to Dajolee's, which was the first 2 letters of Rose Emma's son's names (Dan & John), and the middle name of Jerry Lee.

In the early 1970's, the Smith's purchased the adjoining building, which housed the former Kirby Hatchery. Dajolee's was expanded to include the banquet room. After 23 years, the Smith's sold Dajolee's to Delbert and Kathy Fullencamp, who at the time, also owned The Graystone Restaurant in West Liberty.

In 1995, Cindy Oelker purchased Dajolee's from the Fullencamp's. Cindy had been operating The Graystone Restaurant since 1988 for the Fullencamp's. In April of 1995, the entire operation was moved to the Dajolee's location, and The Graystone Restaurant closed its doors. Cindy Oelker wanted to establish a new name for the restaurant, and after consulting with her customers, it was decided to name the new restaurant "Liberty Gathering Place" because it's the place where people would gather in downtown West Liberty. Cindy sold it to Ashley and Eric in March 2023.

Liberty Gathering Place offers customers a comfortable atmosphere to gather with friends and family to enjoy great food and homemade pies. Ashley and Eric believe the restaurant is unique because of the length of time the restaurant has been in business. They are members of the West Liberty Business Association as well as support the community, local businesses, and schools as often as possible. The customers love the fact that they can gather in a relaxing atmosphere and socialize all while enjoying a variety of foods. The restaurant offers many specials such as their salad bar. They have also started a breakfast buffet that they feature one weekend per month currently. They encourage residents and visitors to follow them on their various social media accounts to see updated specials and dates. You can find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/libertygathering.place> and on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/libertygatheringplace/>. **The phone number** is 937-465-3081. **Their hours** are Monday and Tuesday from 6:00AM-2:00PM, Wednesday through Saturday from 6:00AM-7:00PM and Sundays from 8:00AM-2:00PM.

When not working at the LGP, Ashley and Eric enjoy spending time outdoors, working on their homestead, listening to music, playing games, and watching and attending sporting events. They say their favorite thing about West Liberty is the support that the community gives to the local businesses and the support and encouragement that they have received from West Liberty residents. Ashley and Eric say they feel very fortunate for the opportunity to own and operate their business in West Liberty.

**Again, congratulations to Liberty Gathering Place!**



### October 2023 Business of the Month – West Liberty Lions Club

We would like to congratulate the West Liberty Lions Club for being selected as the West Liberty Business Association's October 2023 Business of the Month.

The West Liberty Lions Club is a service organization that loves to serve their community. They are best known for their upkeep of the Lions Park as well as their annual Labor Day Festival along with their pancake breakfasts and fish fry's

Their **Mission Statement** is *To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions Clubs.* Their **Vision Statement** is *To be the global leader in community and humanitarian service.*

The causes they currently support include:

- Sight & Hearing Committee
- International Relations Committee
- Pilot Dogs Inc.
- West Liberty Cares
- Ohio Lions Band
- L.C.I.F.
- Ohio Lions Foundation
- W.C.O.L.E.B. (Dayton)
- Ohio Lions Youth Committee
- O.L.E.R.F. (General Eye Research Fund & Bryan Diabetes Fund)
- West Liberty Fire Department
- Indiana Eyeglass Recycle Center
- American Diabetes Association
- Dictionary Donations to WL-S Students
- Scholarships
- Maintenance of Lions Club Park
- And More!

They currently have 61 members and are always looking for more! They have meetings every 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 6:45 pm at Mad River Farm Market. If you or someone you know is interested in joining, you can fill out an application at this web site: <https://www.westlibertylions.org/become-a-lion.html> or feel free to show up at any of the meetings.

Again, congratulations to West Liberty Lions Club! There will be an award presentation October 16 at 6:30 pm at Lions Club Charter night in Opera House.

**Written and submitted by: Brenda Snyder, WLBA Secretary**