



The Village News

mywestliberty.com

201 N. Detroit St. PO Box 187

West Liberty, OH 43357

937-465-2716

September 2022

Mayor Jill C. McKelvey

When people ask, What's new in West Liberty, it's easy to forget all the different projects the Village is working on. From efforts to honor our heroes to reinvestment and revitalization of our downtown, here's a breakdown of what is in the works:

On July 19, the Village was notified of the addition of West Liberty to the **national register as a Purple Heart City**. This is the culmination of months of work to honor our military members with several works, including the dedication of the Purple Heart Memorial and other related efforts. The purpose of being a Purple Heart City is to express gratitude to the sons and daughters of our community who were either wounded or killed in combat defending the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans. There are more than 900 Purple Heart locations in the United States, honoring the 1.6 million Purple Heart recipients.

A **new gazebo** was delivered on July 25 to the northside of Town Hall. This will be used for special events in the Opera House (weddings, etc.), Santa's house during the Christmas holidays, and other special events (music, speakers, photo shoots, etc.). Jake Vitt will be providing the landscaping around the gazebo.

Flood mitigation public information meeting will be held on **September 20 Town Hall Opera House at 6:30 pm**. We will have a roundtable discussion with 10 experts on what property owners may do to help with flooding. The public will be able to ask one on one questions with these experts and may be able to provide resources.

West Columbus Street is a focal point of village renovation and investment. There are two concerns we are working to address in this neighborhood: The closed bridge and the deteriorating conditions of the old elementary school.

Jayne Griffith is working diligently on the **bridge project** and is making strides to get it reopened in the next few years to pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Calendars and t-shirts with the Pony Truss bridge design were printed with support from our local businesses and private donations, and may be purchased in our local shops or at the clerk's office. If you are interested in donating time or financial support to this cause, please email Jayne at j.griffith@mywestliberty.com. We have reached out to the Logan County **Commissioners** regarding the bridge and have pledged **\$30,000** support for the project.

The village has also been fielding calls from interested parties in an effort to try and to help save the old elementary building. Currently Jason Kile is looking for people who are willing to invest in this building and turn it into something that preserves the history and essence of the building while addressing the danger posed by the deteriorating building. Jason and his partner Sarah Mackert have created a breakdown on the potential funding and costs involved in saving this structure (\$4 million dollars). The village has an email of their estimates if you are interested in this information, email the clerk or myself for this information. If you are interested in this project, Jason can also be contacted at jason.e.kile@gmail.com. We are still considering the demolition option as this structure is having a very negative impact on the value of residents near the old elementary building. There still are lots of wildlife in the structure, specifically two to three large black vultures which are living in the building. We should have information from the Land Bank regarding approval of our application within a month.

Thank you for the nominations and voting for **Residential and Commercial/Civic Beautification awards** in August. The winners will be announced at Labor Day and then recognized at the September 12 Council meeting.

We hope you are enjoying our **businesses of the month** collaborations! Every month the winner lets Marie's Candies know what their favorite Marie's candy is. Then for a week or so, Marie's allows customers to sample that particular candy. In July Stoner's Ice Cream Parlor partnered with Marie's Candies for the Buckeye Sundaes and then in August when The People's Savings and Loan were selecting the candy at Marie's which was the Turkins, Stoner's created the Turtle sundae. Please shop local and help our businesses who do so much supporting our local community and school events.



Mayor Jill C. McKelvey Cont.

Solomon's Garage is working with the village to create an **electric car charging station** for our downtown area. A big thank you to Dave Neer who is doing all the leg work for this project. More information will be coming soon.

The **Veterans'** were taped in June, and in August, may be viewed at the www.mywestliberty.com website. We are honored to recognize these service members of our community. The Purple Heart veterans' stories link can also be found at www.mywestliberty.com website. The Clerk's office is accepting orders for service members' banners to hang from light poles. For more information contact 937.465.2716.

We are still working on a financially sound plan for **broadband**. Our IT specialist is working through the proposal from Logan Gig to make a recommendation to the Village at a September Council meeting.

The **gas and electric aggregation will be on the November 2022 ballot** as two separate issues per the Ohio Revised Code. If this is passed then early next year, we will begin working on locking in lower rates for our residents for both gas and electricity. **If residents have a lower rate, they may opt out.** A public meeting will be held on **September 22 at 6 pm** at Green Hills Foundation Hall.

And finally, we hosted a workshop for our local business and building owners in August to help us restore and revitalize our downtown. We have also applied for a grant to put some resources into the downtown AND our Community Reinvestment Areas application was submitted to the State of Ohio for approval in July. Updates will be provided at the mywestliberty.com website.

All of this couldn't be done without the incredible teamwork and cooperation that defines our town. Each and every member of the village council, village staff, and business owners bring their own strengths. As mayor, I am fortunate to have a great team of people helping drive these projects, and I am thankful for each one. If you would like more information about any of these projects, please feel free to contact me at mayor.mckelvey@mywestliberty.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sept. 2-6th Labor Day Festival for info www.westlibertylions.org/labor-day-festival

Sept. 9-10th - Fall Open House for West Liberty www.mywestliberty.com for more information

Sept. 10 & 17 & 24 Ohio Fish and Shrimp Festival more info <http://fwfarms.com/festival/>

Sept. 24 Potato and Ice Cream Bar Fundraiser Meal for Ukraine @ South Union Mennonite Church

WL Police Department:

As the summer winds down to a close and we turn to fall sports, the kids headed back to school, and farmers preparing for harvest I want to remind our residents that the roads and streets will begin to have increased activity.

I would like to make sure that everyone is aware of their surroundings as they travel through the village and to make sure that they are giving the buses a little extra time for the kids to get on and off. I ask that everyone be patient as our farmers haul their grain and move equipment.

I would also like to make sure that we are keeping an eye out for our dog walkers, our runners, and residents who are just out for a daily walk.

The police department will be joining other local agencies over the next month with increased traffic enforcement, and I want to remind everyone to drive sober and buckle up because your life matters and the lives of others matter just the same.

Happy Fall !

Shane Oelker

Chief of Police West Liberty Police Department

111 Runkle St. PO Box 187 West Liberty, Ohio 43357

937-465-2801 ext. 101 or

by email at soelker@westlibertypolice.org

WL Street Department:

Street Sweeping will be done on the following dates

Sept. 13

Oct. 4th

Bill Detrick

Street Superintendent

WL Historical Society:

Donations are always welcome.

PO Box 159 West Liberty, OH 43357

www.westlibertyhistory.com

WLHistoricalSociety.Ohio@gmail.com

Clerk's Office

The Clerk's Office will be closed on Monday September 5th for observance of Labor Day

Cindee Boyd

Clerk/Treasurer

937-465-2716

vowlclerk@mywestliberty.com

West Liberty Lions Club

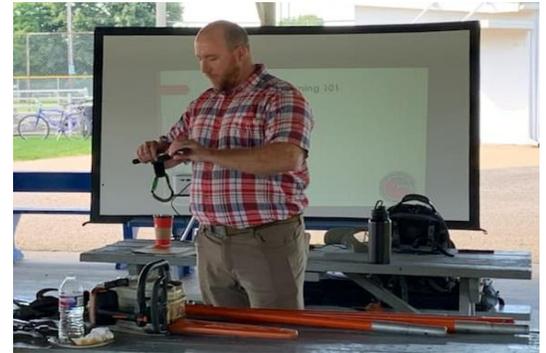
Thank you, West Liberty Residents, for your support of our Fish Fry's and Pancake Breakfasts throughout the year! Without your support, we couldn't do what we do! We thank you! Can't wait to see everyone at the Labor Day Festival!

Joanna Hostetler Talks about: Tree Maintenance

As fall approaches, many of us enjoy the changing leaves on the trees in our yards, along the streets and in our neighborhoods. By maintaining your trees, they provide many benefits. Trees provide shade for our homes and sheltering them from the wind, beautifying landscape which may increase property values, and improve air quality. Our village has been fortunate enough to have Alistair Reynolds, **our regional arborist** take a look at the trees around town. If you are interested in any further details regarding your trees, please contact the Village Street Superintendent, Bill Detrick at villagewl@outlook.com or me at j.hostetler@mywestliberty.com. By taking a proactive approach this could possibly reduce storm damage and help maintain the overall health of your trees.

Being A Good Neighbor Guide Tip of the month: **Tree Regulations**

Tree overhanging sidewalks must have a clearance of 12 feet. Trees overhanging a State Route, public street or alley must have a clearance of 14 feet. Responsibility of trees is the property owner/tree owner.



Alistair Reynolds

Our regional arborist, Alistair Reynolds has provided us with some tips when it is time to prune your trees.

Making the Cut

Types of cuts

- Removal cuts
- Reduction cuts

Removal cuts

This cut is used to remove a branch all the way back to the stem.



Tree Trimming Workshop

To remove a **branch**, use the 3 cut method

- 1)Undercut
- 2)Top cut
- 3)Final cut

Undercut – Reduce the weight of the branch to make the final cut more controllable. 10 inches away from the trunk, saw a quarter to a third of the way into the branch from the underside. This partial cut prevents the bark from tearing down the stem.

Top cut – Cut squarely down from the top of the branch about half an inch to an inch beyond the undercut (further away from the trunk) until the branch falls. The branch will fall flat on the ground.

Final cut – Now that the majority of the branch has been removed making the final cut is more manageable. Cut from the top down just in front of the branch collar, being careful not to damage the branch collar.

Branch collar – The branch collar is the thickened ring at the base of a branch. This is part of the trunk and will develop into callus tissue to cover the pruning wound.

Reduction Cut

This cut is used to make an over-extended branch shorter. When making the cut, cut back to a lateral branch 1/3 the diameter of the parent branch. To reduce the weight of the branch use the 3 cut method with your final cut at the lateral branch.

If you don't feel comfortable pruning your tree. You can find an arborist in your area at trees4ohio.org

Congratulations

**MICHAEL'S
PIZZA**

Septmeber 2022 Business of the Month



Michaels Pizza has celebrated their 40 years in business. 110 S. Detroit St. WL Phone: 937-465-6427
Sun Mon Tues Wed Thrus 4:00 -9:00 PM Fri 11 AM - 1:00 PM & 4:00-10:00 PM Sat 4:00-10:00 PM

Revival Design Studio Workshop On Curb Appeal



Workshop held in August for our Business and Building Owners

When to stop for a school bus in Ohio

On a road with fewer than four lanes, all traffic approaching a stopped school bus from either direction must stop at least 10 feet from the front or rear of the bus and remain stopped until the bus begins to move or the bus driver signals motorists to proceed.



If the bus is stopped on a street with four or more lanes, only traffic proceeding in the same direction as the bus must stop.



Failure to stop for a school bus adds 2 points to your license in Ohio and is punishable by fines up to \$500. You must appear in court and the judge has the discretion to suspend your driver's license for up to one year. A driver who injures a pedestrian while failing to comply with school bus safety laws can face both criminal charges and civil liability. Those liabilities can include the victim's medical expenses, lost wages, rehabilitation, and non-economic damages, such as pain and suffering.

Buy your WL Apparel today, swestshirts, t-shirts, hoodies. All colots and sizes.



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

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