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The Village View

December 2016

Reflections of 2016



Taking a look back to 2016 and entering into a new year, I want to take time in this edition of the Village View to sincerely thank our Elected Officials, Board Volunteers, and Village employees who serve the citizens and businesses of the Lewisburg community.

First, thank you to Mayor Pat Putnam and Village Council for their leadership and guidance for the mission and vision of the Lewisburg community.

Thank you to the Administrative Staff in the front office, who are diligent in providing the best customer service to our citizens.

Our Fire and EMS personnel, under the direction of Chief Robert Sewert, are prepared and manned 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by three full-time paramedic/firefighters and supplemented by part-time employees. A special thank you goes out to the Fire and EMS volunteers who are the true backbone of the department with many years of service and dedication to the community.

Under the direction of Chief Rick McGee, the Police Department is

staffed by three full-time officers, along with 13 Part-time officers, who provide 24-hour-a-day police protection for our community. The Police Department also works very closely with the Tri-County North Schools to provide for a Police Resource Officer for grades K through 12.

The Public Service Department is staffed by four full-time employees and currently employs 6 part-time employees. These men, under the direction of Josh Harry, make sure each and every day the refuse and recycling gets picked up. They operate and maintain the Water and Water Reclamation facilities to provide for the best water quality and ensure Ohio EPA rules and regulations are met. They perform all aspects of street duties including picking up leaves in the fall, snow removal in the winter months, construction and maintenance of Village streets in the summer. In the springtime, they prepare our Community Park for the various activities from little

league baseball, pee wee football and family reunions.

Accolades go out to our Park Board of Trustees, Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission members. These men and women volunteer their time every month to make for a better Lewisburg.

We are now working on the Bicentennial celebration, which will take place on September 7, 8 and 9, 2018. This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime milestone, and we encourage everyone to get involved in making this the best birthday party ever! Come join us at the next meeting on December 19, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center!

Finally, I want to sincerely thank the citizens and businesses for truly making Lewisburg the best kept secret in Preble County! Wishing you all the happiest of holiday seasons!

Best regards,
Jeff Sewert
Municipal Manager

2017 Dog License!

Preble County dog licenses go on sale December 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017. You may purchase your dog license at the Auditor's office, 2nd floor of the Courthouse, any weekday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You can also get your dog license in Lewisburg at Farmer's State Bank, LCNB, or Price's Creek Vet Clinic. A 1-year license is \$14.00 per dog. These businesses may charge a preparation fee of up to \$.75 per application.



SNOW REMOVAL

The Village of Lewisburg Service Department strives to maintain an aggressive snow and ice removal program to provide the safest possible travel. Our program is based upon a proactive partnership with residents to promote a safe community.

Streets will be monitored regularly and treated based upon priority. In the event of severe weather, hills, curves, and intersections will receive the highest priority, particularly along main arteries which provide access for police, fire and other emergency vehicles.

Village residents are advised to maintain extreme vigilance and use caution when traveling the roadways this winter.



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2017 Village of Lewisburg Holiday Closings

Monday, January 2	Thursday, November 23 (refuse on Friday)
Monday, January 16	Friday, November 24
Monday, February 20	Friday, December 22
Monday, May 29	Monday, December 25 (refuse on Tuesday)
Tuesday, July 4	Monday, January 1
Monday, September 4	

Lewisburg Police Department - New K-9



The Village of Lewisburg Police Department has established a new K-9 Unit to provide assistance to law enforcement officers to help combat crime more effectively and to have a positive impact on the community.

The newest member of the Lewisburg Police force is a 65 pound, sable-colored male German Shepherd, born in Hungary in 2014. His name Apollo. Apollo is partnered up with Cpl. Andrew Johnson, and they are the department's first K-9 Unit in a long time.

Apollo was carefully selected by Vohne Liche Kennels, who also provided him with his initial training at their Europe-based train-

ing center. He was then imported to the United States, where he was selected by the Village of Lewisburg Police Department and Cpl. Johnson to be a dual purpose police canine. Apollo will be certified in narcotics detection, obedience, building/area searches, article searches, obstacle course training, tracking, and officer protection. Currently, he lives at home with Cpl. Johnson and his family.

Cpl. Johnson and Apollo are currently undergoing a six-week training program at Vohne Liche Kennels in Indiana - a federally-recognized training facility. VLK is training Cpl. Johnson and Apollo in the basic skills necessary for a competent K-9 Team for the Village of Lewisburg. Additional training will take place on an ongoing basis to maintain a high level of service from the dog.

The Lewisburg Police Department was able to launch a K-9 Unit thanks to very generous donations from a number of Lewisburg resi-

dents, other community members, and Royal Canin. The Village of Lewisburg will maintain the K-9 program with the assistance of Royal Canin and other community members.

We're very pleased to now have a K-9 Unit as part of our police force. We're operating our program with three basic objectives: to increase the effectiveness of village law enforcement, to enhance relations with the community, and to enhance relations with other law enforcement agencies

Chief R. G. McGee



Brown Memorial Library News

The staff at Brown Memorial Library would like to thank their patrons for providing a full and memorable year and encourage anyone with an interest to stop by and check out our ever-expanding catalog.

Many of our yearly programs were a success, including Summer Reading. We saw a great turnout this year, and are already preparing for Summer Reading 2017. We would also like to invite you to bring your children to our weekly Preschool Story-Time program (ages 2 ½ to 5), where they will hear a story, socialize with other children their age, and make an accompanying

craft with Miss Chris. The last session for 2016 will occur on December 19, and the program will return January 9, 2017. No sign-ups are required to participate and two sessions are held each Monday at 10:30 and 11:30 AM. The same content is repeated at each session.

Brown Memorial would also like to invite you to our bi-monthly Rowdy Reader book discussion group. Join us for a fun evening of discussion and refreshments. The next meeting will be held January 3, at 6:30 PM. January's selection is Richard Paul Evans' "The Walk," a powerful story

about a man searching for redemption during a cross-country hike.

Brown Memorial Library has also started a second book discussion group, working in conjunction with Tri-County North, to bring the book discussion experience to local schoolchildren. We are excited to have the participation of our 7th-8th grade language arts students. This is just one example of our outreach program, which we hope to build on in the future with your support.

We are proud to serve the Lewisburg community. Visit us at <http://brownmemorial.lib.oh.us>.

Fire and EMS Department News

As the winter weather approaches, the Fire/EMS would like to remind everyone to take extra care when driving or walking in the snow or ice. Please remember that shoveling snow can be a very strenuous activity that can place significant strain on the human body. Please exercise extreme caution when shoveling snow.

The Fire Department would like to warn our citizens of three factors which pose an increased fire threat during the holidays.

* Decorative lighting *

Make sure purchased lights bear the label of a nationally-recognized testing laboratory.

Turn off lights when you go to bed or leave the house.

* Live Christmas trees *

Purchase trees that are as fresh as possible.

Keep the tree stand filled with water – check water daily.

Place trees as far away from heat sources as possible.

Never place lighted candles on or near the tree.

* Unattended candles *

It must also be noted that proper installation, use, and maintenance of winter heating devices are essential for reducing the risks of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning. The department cannot stress enough the

importance of having your home's heating system checked annually by a qualified professional. Furnaces, fireplaces, wood stoves and their chimneys should be inspected and cleaned prior to the start of every heating season.

Be certain that alternate sources of heating, such as portable electric and kerosene heaters and wood burning stoves, are used according to their instructions and with extreme caution. For any space heater, remember: SPACE HEATERS NEED SPACE - at least three feet from anything that can burn.

The Fire/EMS would like to pass along some safety rules to keep homes fire safe and prevent painful burns. The most common types of burn injuries result from fire or flame burns, scalds, and contact burns. Please take simple measures and use common sense to stop these mostly preventable injuries.

The following safety rules will assist our citizens to stay fire smart:

- Keep hot liquids away from table and counter edges so they cannot be pulled or knocked over
- Have a 3-foot "kid zone" around the stove
- Install tamper-resistant receptacles or receptacle covers to prevent a child from sticking an object in an outlet
- Set the temperature of your hot

water tank to no higher than 120°.

Never leave a child alone in a room with a lit candle, portable heater, lit fireplace, or stove.

The Fire Department has recently applied for two grants for equipment and personal protective gear. One is Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) through FEMA and the other is a Darke Rural Electric Trust grant. If successful, these grants would replace equipment that is 10-15 years old.

The department would like to invite community residents to attend our annual **Breakfast with Santa**. This popular holiday event will be held this year on **Saturday, December 10th, from 9-10:30 A.M.** The location will be the Fire Station on South Commerce Street.

We wish all our citizens a safe and happy holiday season!



VILLAGE INCOME TAX REMINDER!!

Tax season will be upon us shortly. Just a reminder that **Village ordinance requires everyone, including renters, to file an income tax return with the Village - even if you have no taxable income.** Tax returns are due in the Village office by April 15th. You can pick up a Village tax return form at the Village offices. Please feel free to contact Margee at 962-4377 with any questions.