

VILLAGE OF LEETONIA NEWSLETTER



www.leetonia.org

Village Officials

Mayor Kevin Siembida 330-427-6721 24 hours
mayor@leetonia.org (TERM) 1/1/16 – 12/31/19

Village Council (TERM)
John "JR" Ferry 1/1/16 – 12/31/2019
Dave Keeler 1/1/16 – 12/31/2019
William Garlough 1/1/18 – 12/31/2021
Neal Bayless 1/1/18 – 12/31/2021
William Merdich 1/1/18 – 12/31/2021
James Pittman 1/1/18 – 12/31/2021

Village Administrator Gary E. Phillips 330-427-8090
administrator@leetonia.org

Village Fiscal Officer Randy Chismar 330-427-6721,
8:30am - 2:30pm fiscalofficer@leetonia.org

Village Solicitor Walter Newton 330-427-2720

Police
police@leetonia.org
330-427-6731 - *Emergency*
330-427-6711 - *Non-Emergency*

Fire Chief Larry Hephner, Jr fire@leetonia.org
EMS Coordinator Tom Farley
Asst. Coordinator Seth Randolph
ems@leetonia.org
330-427-6745 - *Emergency*
330-427-2310 – *Fire Hall, Non-Emergency*

Utilities Department
Butch Donnalley, Superintendent 330-427-8087 9am – 3pm
waterplant@leetonia.org
Alison Green, Water Clerk 330-427-6720
waterclerk@leetonia.org

Tax Department
Regional Income Tax Association
800 860-7482 or visit their website www.ritaohio.com.

Zoning Bill Pitts, 330-427-6721 ext 104
zoning@leetonia.org
Tuesdays & Saturdays 9-11am
Cell 330-420-8055

Shade Tree Commission 330-853-0568
Susan Simpson – Commissioner, shadetree@leetonia.org
Bill Merdich – Advisor, Sue Buchanan

Park Board
Michael Cope – President, Mayor Siembida.

Oakdale Cemetery

Meetings are being held at the Cemetery, the 3rd Monday of each month at 4:45 pm. The next meeting has been changed to January 22nd, 2017 due to MLK Holiday. Contact Susan Simpson at 330 853-0568 or oakdalecemetery@Leetonia.org.

Shade Tree Commission Meetings

The Shade Tree Commission meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at Village Hall. The meetings are open to all Village residents. The next meeting will be January 16th, 2017.

Cherry Valley Beehive

Coke Oven Advisory Commission

Bill Merdich, Chairman 330-817-0088
leetoniacokeovens@gmail.com

Notification will be posted for meeting date and location.

Marquee Sign/Newsletter

Messages for the sign and newsletter must be for schools, non-profit organizations, churches and community events. Information must be provided at least 2 weeks in advance. If you would like a message on the Marquee email Dan Morelli, dmorelli80@yahoo.com.

The deadline for information to be included in the newsletter is 20th of the Month. Please email the information as you would like it to appear to Randy Chismar at fiscalofficer@leetonia.org

Council Meetings

Regular Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are held in the Council Chambers at Village Hall.

The January Meetings are the 3rd and 17th.
Public attendance is welcome and encouraged!!

Leetonia Water Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday hours are 9 am to 2 pm,
Wednesday's hours are 5 pm to 7 pm and Friday's hours from 9 am to noon.

After hours emergencies only can call 330 427-6721.

Recycling Bin

Please do not leave bags, boxes or loose objects outside of recycling bins.

Recyclables do not need to be sorted.
ONLY RECYCLABLES, NO TRASH!!!

COMMUNITY CALENDER

Leetonia Community Public Library

Library Hours – M/Tu/Th – 9:30-7, W/F/Sat – 9:30-4

Calendar of January Events

- Jan 1st **Library CLOSED for Holiday**
- Jan 2nd **Crochet for Charity** 11 am to 1 pm
Teen Tuesday – Board Games @3 pm
- Jan 3rd **MercyHealth Dental Van** @9 am – Walk-Ins can receive basic dental care
Toddler Playgroup @ 10 am
AM Bookends @10 am – Discussing *A Coincidence of Coconut Cake* by Amy E. Reichert
- Jan 4th **Exercise** @11:15 am
Kids' Club @4:30 pm
Crochet 4-6 pm
- Jan 9th **Crochet for Charity** 11 am-1 pm
Teen Tuesday - Book Talk @3 pm
YA for Adults @6 pm – Discussing *The Impossible Knife of Memory* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- Jan 10th **Toddler Playgroup** @ 10 am
- Jan 11th **Exercise** @11:15 am
Kids' Club Movie @4:30 pm
Crochet 4-6 pm
- Jan 15th **Library CLOSED for holiday**
- Jan 16th **Crochet for Charity** 11 am to 1 pm
Teen Tuesday - Creative Writing @3 pm
Ghost Hunting: General Ghost Hunting – 6 to 8pm
- Jan 17th **MercyHealth Dental Van** @9 am – Walk-Ins can receive basic dental care
Toddler Playgroup @10 am
- Jan 18th **Exercise** @11:15 am
Kids' Club @4:30 pm
Crochet 4-6 pm
Friends of the Library Meeting @6 pm
- Jan 23rd **Crochet for Charity** 11 am to 1 pm
Teen Tuesday – Board Games @3 pm
Board of Trustees Meeting @5:30 pm
Ghost Hunting: Pictures and Video – 6 to 8pm
- Jan 24th **Toddler Playgroup** @ 10 am
- Jan 25th **Exercise** @11:15 am
Kids' Club @4:30 pm
Crochet 4 to 6 pm
- Jan 30th **Crochet for Charity** 11 am-1 pm
Teen Tuesday - Craft @3 pm
Ghost Hunting: Electronic Voice Phenomenon – 6 to 8pm
- Jan 31st **Toddler Playgroup** @ 10 am

Parks Board Notes

The playground swings have been removed for the year and the parks board would like to thank everyone (especially the kids) for taking care of our parks while enjoying the equipment. Please stay tuned for more fun in 2018.

The parks board would like to congratulate **Bryan Smearsoll**, St. Paul's Boy Scout Troop 6, who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout at an official ceremony Saturday, December 17th. Bryan's Eagle Scout project is the kiosk that stands near the Greenway Trail and the Coke Ovens in our newest park.

Community Revitalization

A public meeting will be held at 6pm on January 25th at the Library for public input and ideas on the direction of Village development.

Leetonia Italian American Club Fish Fries

Fish Fries will be held every Friday from January 12th through March 30th from 5:00-8:00 pm. Dine in or carry out options are available. For more info call 330 427-9900.

Tax Information

We have decided to try to clarify some issues about the recent transfer to the Regional Income Tax Agency. First of all, many of the changes and problems we are currently having are caused by the passage of House Bill 5 effective January 1st, 2016. HB5, among other things, requires taxpayers to pay estimated taxes quarterly if their total annual tax liability for previous years have been more than \$200. This only affects residents whose employers do not withhold taxes for the Village. This is **not** a RITA requirement but a State law we are **required** to follow. Council has waived any penalties caused by not paying the quarterly estimated taxes **until** the payment due in April 2018 (the date is the same as the federal tax due date, April 17th, 2018). RITA follows State and Village requirements as regards to penalties and interest. The penalty and interest requirement was passed by a 6-0 vote by Council in Resolution 15-2448.

We also are aware that there are going to be issues with the change over to RITA. Our previous system was not computerized and that has caused problems with previous year records that RITA has been able to bring into their system. We apologize for that and ask for your patience through the process. Please do not hesitate to call **RITA at 800 860-7482** with any problems. There is also a website www.ritaohio.com. If you have any problems in getting satisfactory answers from RITA, get the name of who you talked to and when you talked to them and call Randy Chismar at 330 427-6721 x103 and he will follow up with RITA to solve any issues.

The decision to contract with RITA was not an easy one. There were a number of issues that weighed our decision. The main factors were the high costs associated with computerizing our system and the fact that we just couldn't get a qualified person to take the Income Tax Clerk position. We predict RITA will be much better at making sure everyone is paying their share, so there will be more money to spend on Village improvements. The period of August 1 through November 30 has shown about a 19% decrease in collection expenses over the same period of 2016 as well.

We believe this decision will be the best for the future of Leetonia.