

VILLAGE OF LEETONIA NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER

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)
Danny Fire, President 1/1/14 – 12/31/2017
Sue Buchanan 1/1/14 – 12/31/2017
Chris Earl 1/1/14 – 12/31/2017
John "JR" Ferry 1/1/16 – 12/31/2019
Dave Keeler 1/1/16 – 12/31/2019
William Garlough 1/1/14 – 12/31/2017

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 will be December 18th, 2017. 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 December 19th, 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 December Meetings are the 6th and 20th.
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 December Events

2nd **Friends of the Library Movie Luncheon** @1 pm – Register now for lunch and a Christmas movie, followed by a visit with Santa, sponsored by the Friends of the Library - \$5 per family.

5th **Crochet** 11-1 am
Teen Book Chat @3 pm – Talk about what you're reading!

6th **AM Bookends** @10 am – Reading: *The Shipping News* by Annie Proulx

Toddler Playgroup @ 10 am

7th **Exercise** @11:15 am
Kids' Club Movie Night @ 4:30 pm – Join us for free popcorn and a movie. Rated PG. Sponsored by the Friends of the Leetonia Public Library.

Crochet 4-6 pm

12th **Crochet** 11-1 am
Teen Creative Writing @3 pm
YA for Adults @6 pm – Reading *X: A Novel* by

Ilyasah Shabazz & Kekla Magoon
Book Folding 6-8 pm – Learn the art of book folding from expert June McAfee, and take home what you make. Register with the library today!

13th **Toddler Playgroup** @10 am

14th **Exercise** @11:15 am
Kids' Club @ 4:30 pm

Crochet 4-6 pm

19th **Crochet** 11-1 am
Teen Craft @3 pm

20th **Toddler Playgroup** @ 10am

21st **Exercise** @11:15 am
Kids' Club @4:30 pm

Crochet 4-6 pm

25th **Library CLOSED for Holiday**

26th **Crochet** 11-1 am

Teen Board Games @3 pm

27th **Toddler Playgroup** @ 10am

28th **Exercise** @11:15 am
Kids' Club @4:30 pm

Crochet 4-6 pm

Jan 1st **Library CLOSED for Holiday**

Leaf Pickup

Leaf pickup (both loose and bagged leaves) will continue as needed. Please do not mix brush and leaves and do not include any other yard waste in the piles. Once the majority of the leaves fall we will be collecting bagged leaves only so make sure to get the loose leaves to the curb lawn as soon as you can.

Christmas Remembrance of Loved Ones at Oakdale Cemetery

Christmas Remembrance of Loved Ones will be held December 17th at 4 pm at the Oakdale Cemetery Chapel with Pastor Kari. Call Susan Simpson at 330 853-0568 for further information. This service is open to everyone.

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 talk 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.

Leetonia Italian American Fish Fry

The ITAM is having a fish fry on December 15th, from 5 to 8pm. Menu includes Beer Batter or Baked Fish, French Fries, Cole Slaw and Bread & Butter. Hot Dogs or Chicken Tenders are available for kids. It is open to the public.

Appreciation from the Parks Board

The Park Board would like to thank **Wilms Floral and Greenhouse** and **Karen Jones** for preparing the bows and greenery for Wick Park. Also, we would like to thank the volunteers that helped hang these and tidy up the park on November 12. We appreciate all of our volunteer contributors from 2017. Please join us in 2018 as we plan our year.