

Clarksburg 1950 "The Storm of the Century"

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Welcome to the City of Clarksburg newsletter! We are excited to have this dialogue with you and we anticipate fruitful discussions about the varying topics and issues facing our community. One of the top priorities for our Council is to strengthen the lines of communication between residents and Council. City matters affect our everyday lives, and this newsletter is part of the efforts of our Council to ensure that information is available to all community members.



We will strive to deliver timely information related to ongoing projects, community-based initiatives, open house events, current events and decision-making by the Council and staff. You can also find the City of Clarksburg on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram. As well, we encourage community members to contact Council or staff with any and all inquiries, concerns or comments. We are here to assist you.

New Year: A Time For Change



2019 New Years Celebration in Clarksburg

The New Year is always a time for change and 2024 will be no exception in the City of Clarksburg. One major set of changes that you should be aware of are the changes to the city's elections. In 2019, the voters in Clarksburg passed several new charter amendments, one of which involved changing the dates of our municipal elections to coincide with elections in the county. One of the proposed benefits of moving city elections from the first Tuesday in June to the second Tuesday in May was to help increase voter turnout in presidential election years.

This year's municipal election will be held on Tuesday, May 14th. As a result of the new election date other dates and timelines have changed, moving the initial filing dates for any open seats to January 5th through January 27th of this year.

In 2024 there are three City Council seats and two Water Board seats up for election. In a compromise to accommodate another of the charter amendments passed by voters in 2019 that changes the city mayor to an elected position in 2026, the City Council members

elected in last year's municipal election in June are serving a shortened one-year term and those same three seats will be up again for election this May.

If you are a Clarksburg citizen and interested in running for one of the City Council or Water Board seats, please contact the City Clerk, Annette Wright, at 304-624-1673 or by e-mail at awright@cityofclarksburgwv.com should you have any questions concerning the election or filing to run for a seat.

City Council Candidates

- ▶ **Hattie Wright**
- ▶ **Andrew J. Banko**
- ▶ **Marcus Rutter**
- ▶ **Marc Jackson**
- ▶ **Ryan Deems**
- ▶ **Martin G. Howe**
- ▶ **Tyler Hart**

Water Board Candidates

- ▶ **Paul J. Howe III**
- ▶ **Albert N. Cox**

Clarksburg's Opioid Settlement

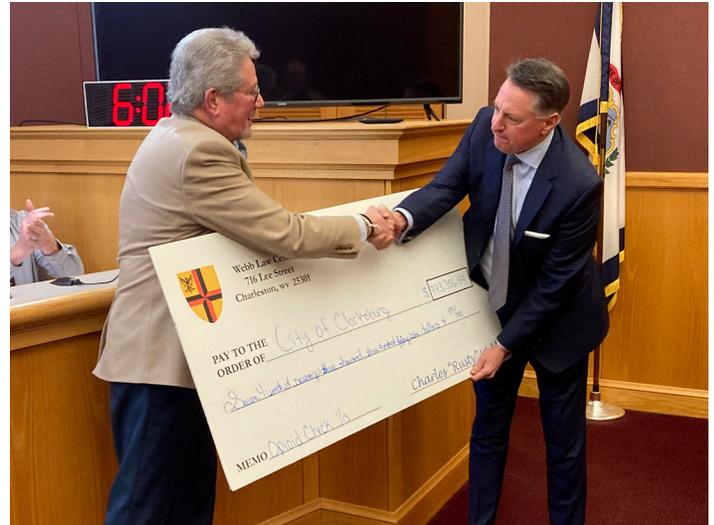
The opioid epidemic has been a major public health crisis in West Virginia, and the state has received settlements from various pharmacy retailers, prescription drug manufacturers, drug distributors, and management consulting firms totaling around \$847 million.

The state has agreed to a general distribution plan, with local governments receiving ~25% of the funds. The City of Clarksburg is one of the cities in West Virginia who has been disproportionately impacted by the opioid crisis and as a result, it has received its first check from the West Virginia opioid settlement for \$773,356.54. Additional payments of differing amounts will be received in the future as the defendants make payments in accordance with their settlement agreement.

As directed by the state in their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the funds must be spent on "Approved Purposes" such as expanding treatment availability, engaging in drug-related law enforcement, and other programs that help address the opioid epidemic.

The proper spending of this money is crucial to help those most affected by the opioid epidemic. It is important that the funds are spent legally, transparently, and quickly to save lives and slow down the need for people to turn to drugs.

The Clarksburg City council recently approved its first expenditure of the money for



Presentation of Clarksburg's first opioid settlement payment, Mayor Jim Malfregoet with Attorney Rusty Webb

a request from the Clarksburg Police Department for ~\$91,000 to purchase and install new mobile traffic cameras and license plate readers to be used in key entry and exit points of the city and areas seeing an increase in drug or property crimes, as needed.

Submit Your Ideas

As the City Council explores ways to use the money from this settlement to address local opioid addiction challenges, we invite citizens and organizations that have an idea or suggestion on where they think these funds might be best used, to send those to myself, the City Clerk, or to any member of council:

City Manager, Tiffany Fell:
tfell@cityofclarksburgwv.com

City Clerk, Annette Wright:
awright@cityofclarksburgwv.com

From the Code Enforcement Department



A Look Back at 2023

While Code Enforcement is not directly responsible for new business development of business expansions, we oversee the construction process. One thing we can say about 2023 is that it was a great year for commercial projects. Here are some highlights:

- Longhorn Steakhouse Opens - Eastpointe
- Tidal Wave Auto Spa Opens - New Pointe
- McDonald's Remodel - West End
- Buff City Soap Opens - New Pointe
- Brickside Bar & Grill Remodel - Eastpointe
- O'Reilly Auto Parts Opens - West End
- Tony's Ice Cream Returns - Adamston
- Vito's Pizza Returns - West End
- Elwood Pizza Opens - Glen Elk
- El Rey Mexican Restaurant Expands - New Pointe
- Winston's Cafe Opens - Downtown
- Your BFF Bakery Opens - Downtown
- Pro-Nails Opens - New Pointe
- Hilton Garden Inn Remodel - New Pointe
- Caps Tonsorium Opens - Downtown
- La Tapatia Super Mercado Opens - Glen Elk

Important Changes and Improvements

To optimize our ability to regularly review and secure vacant structures we assigned patrol areas to each inspector. All known vacant properties are checked each week. (over 170 properties split between 3 inspectors)

Code Enforcement Officer Cathy Keener received her certification as an IPMC Inspector.

We worked with existing property owners and new property buyers to un-condemn 21 properties, correct violations and remove them from vacant or condemned status.

We have worked with several developers to purchase, plan and rehabilitate problem business properties. The Empire Building downtown is one such effort.

We are working with the WVU College of Law staff / Clarksburg Planning and Zoning Commission on the process of reviewing and updating and modernizing the city's zoning maps, zoning ordinances, and subdivision land development ordinances to ensure that Clarksburg is better designed for future growth.

From the Clarksburg Police Department

A Look Back at 2023

As we look back on 2023, one of the things the Clarksburg is happy to celebrate is that we had no officers seriously injured this year.

In an effort to help highlight and celebrate the excellent work our officers are doing, we created a police officers award and recognition program. We want our officers to know how much we value their service and we want to give the public an opportunity to know more about the work our officers are doing.

As we continue our effort to bring the Clarksburg Police Department to full force, three new police officers have been hired.

Thanks to the excellent work of our officers (both human and K9) a large number of drug search warrants were served in 2023, resulting in several pounds of fentanyl, methamphetamine and cash being seized.

In 2023, Clarksburg Officers made 176 felony arrests and 1230 misdemeanor arrests.

Metal of Valor Awarded

Clarksburg Police Department's Sergeant Justin Moore was awarded the Medal of Valor and named Officer of the Year for 2023.

During 2023, Sergeant Moore has been awarded multiple times, including Officer of the Month in May and the Life Saving Award in July. Moore is a constant presence on the streets, issuing over 100 citations and contributing over 90 arrests.



SGT Justin Moore receiving his Metal of Valor from Chief of Police, Mark Kiddie

Moore's Medal of Valor recognition was for an incident in which he was the initial responding officer to an incident that included a high speed vehicle pursuit, multiple shots being fired at him, his police cruiser being struck multiple times, and a manhunt that resulted in three arrests.

Sergeant Moore is 12-year member of the Clarksburg Police Department who serves on Bike Patrol, SWAT and is a shift supervisor. Moore oversees the "No Shave November" program and has led many other fund raisers that have sent donations out to our community.

Sergeant Moore is a popular figure among the people he works with and the citizens he serves, and is the type of officer the residents of Clarksburg and Harrison County deserve.

Thank you for your outstanding service, you are a great asset to the City of Clarksburg Police Department and deserve this recognition.

Local Business Updates

James & Law Recognized

Longtime Clarksburg business James & Law was recognized at a City Council meeting in December.



The James & Law Company is a result of a 1905 merger between The James Shepherd Company (1903) and The A.S. Law Company (1899). Mr. James and Mr. Law set out from the beginning to provide their customers with the best selection of products and services available. While their product offerings have changed over the last 125 years, their customer quality products and impeccable service remains steadfast.

For more info visit: jamesandlaw.com

Your BFF Bakery Opens

Your BFF Bakery is a new bakery, located at 113 S. Fourth St. in downtown Clarksburg. The bakery was opened by Melissa Palmer with help from her family. Before starting the business, Palmer and her daughters made baked goods and took them to local craft shows, fundraisers, and First Friday events. The money they earned was reinvested into baking equipment and other homeschool supplies.



The idea behind opening a bakery started as a homeschool project. Palmer's two daughters, Marayah (10) and Aliyah (14) are hands-on with the business and not only help with the baking they also helped in the preparation of the business location.

January Declared "Human Trafficking Prevention Month" and "National Stalking Awareness Month"

The City of Clarksburg in collaboration with Task Force on Domestic Violence HOPE, Inc proclaimed the month of January 2024 as "Human Trafficking Prevention Month" and "National Stalking Awareness Month" to help bring attention to these issues.

It's Happening in Clarksburg

Governor Jim Justice (and Baby Dog) Visit Clarksburg to Award Arts Grants

Governor Justice came to the Robinson Grand Performing Arts Center along with the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History to award grants to a number of West Virginia organizations in support of local Arts projects all over the state.

The Governor shared on Facebook, "[It was an] incredible honor presenting 44 art grants today at the Robinson Grand Performing Arts Center in Clarksburg. The arts connect us, and together, we're making West Virginia not just a state with artists, but a living, breathing work of art."



Events Coming Up in Clarksburg

There is always plenty to do, see, and experience in Clarksburg. Here are a few things coming up in the next month.

- Municipal Election Filing Period - Fri, Jan 05 (8AM-4PM) through Sat, Jan 27 (9AM -5PM) @ City Hall/City Clerk's Office
- City Council Meeting - Thu, Feb 01 6PM @ Municipal Building
- First Fridays Downtown Clarksburg - Fri, Feb 02 from 4:30OPM to 8PM i@ Various Locations
- MOVIE: GROUNDHOG DAY (1993)- Fri, Feb 02, 7PM @ Robinson Grand PAC
- Brass Metropolis (Chicago Tribute)- Sat, Feb 03, 7PM @ Robinson Grand PAC
- The Hair Band Experience - Sat, Feb 10, 7PM @ Robinson Grand PAC
- MOVIE: CASABLANCA (1942) - Wed, Feb 14, 7PM @ Robinson Grand PAC
- City Council Meeting - Thu, Feb 15 6PM @Municipal Building
- Jazz Night at the Robinson Grand - Sat, Feb 24, 7PM @ Robinson Grand PAC