



A Friends of Little Valley Publication

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Note From The Friends

This February 15th will mark 128 years since the first public municipal electrical service was provided in Little Valley. After experiencing an extensive power outage this past month, we felt it was necessary to give a much-appreciated shout out to all the crew that maintains and supervises our municipal electric utilities within and around the village. Despite this latest outage being widespread and not within our village's jurisdiction, we know our crews stepped up when their number was called and local services and repairs were justly satisfied. Thank you for all your attentiveness and dedication to providing us with this local service that remains a unique and beneficial utility of living in Little Valley. An extensive summary of the history of the municipal electric company can be found at the Village of Little Valley's website.

~ The Friends of Little Valley



Facebook : [Little Valley Happenings](#)

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Happy Happenings

Little Valley Ice Rink Opens Successfully

Many thanks to Andrew Terhune for spearheading the rink's maintenance and preparation for another winter. The rink's future openings will be very weather dependant so be sure to follow Little Valley Happening's Facebook page for further updates.

Little Valley VFW Hosting Pie Bake-Off

The Little Valley VFW, located at 5450 Route 353 will host a Pie Bake-Off on Sunday, February 25 at 1 pm. More rules and info will be posted at a later date so be sure to follow their Facebook page or stop at the club for more details. Any funds raised will benefit Homeless Vets.

Little Valley Happenings Looking for Music in the Park Bands/Food Trucks for Summer, 2024

The annual summer tradition will continue late this year for June, July, and August with further details and dates to be announced. Last year we asked the public for recommendations or who you all would like to see perform and provide food at Music in the Park and we're back at it this year! Tell us below who you'd like to see bring their musical talents to Little Valley and who you'd like to see come out with a food truck; connections to bands and vendors with contact information is preferred to be included in the dropboxes below!

[Band/Artist Suggestions](#)

[Food Truck/Vendor Suggestions](#)

American Legion Seeking Donations For Easter Event Fundraiser

The Little Valley American Legion will once again host their Easter Egg Hunt in March but in order to do so, a Fundraiser Basket Raffle will be held on Saturday, March 2. Donations for the basket raffle such as gift certificates, gift cards, filled baskets, or any new item that can be put in the raffle can be dropped off at the American Legion by Sunday, February 18. The Legion is also seeking donations of individually wrapped Easter candy, chocolate Easter bunnies, Easter grass, cookies, fruit snacks, and more of what can be used to fill an Easter basket. Money raised through the basket raffle will directly fund their annual Easter Egg Hunt event next month. For more information you're encouraged to call the American Legion at 716-938-6711.

Vendors and Crafters Also Wanted

The Legion is also seeking crafters and vendors for their annual craft show and bake sale that will be on March 23 from 10 am to 3 pm. If the applicant donates a filled Easter basket or new item for their fundraiser event, the \$15 vendor fee will be waived!

The Hallmark Holiday of all Hallmark Holidays arrives this year, also sharing a day with Ash Wednesday, which is extremely rare considering how early Easter is this year. When it comes to Valentine's Day, whether you recall the heart box of chocolates or sliding a valentine to your favorite crush in grade school, there is a rich (chocolate pun intended) history of generosity and affection relating to February 14th.

There are several legends associated with the origin of Valentine's Day, and it's not entirely clear which is the most accurate:

One popular legend is that Valentine's Day is named after Saint Valentine, a Christian martyr who lived during the Roman Empire. The most widely accepted story is that Saint Valentine was a priest in Rome during the third century. Emperor Claudius II had banned marriages for young men, believing that single men made better soldiers. Saint Valentine defied this decree and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. Eventually, he was discovered and imprisoned. While in jail, he is said to have healed the jailer's blind daughter, and before his execution, he sent her a note signed "from your Valentine."

Another legend suggests that Valentine's Day has roots in an ancient Roman festival called Lupercalia, which was celebrated in mid-February. During this festival, young men would draw names of women from a jar, and they would be coupled for the duration of the festival, and sometimes these matches would lead to marriage.

Valentine's Day Around the World

Valentine's Day

In Germany

In Germany, pigs are considered a symbol of luck and lust. It's common to exchange pig-themed gifts, such as pig-shaped chocolates or trinkets, on Valentine's Day to bring good fortune and happiness in the relationship.

Valentine's Day

In Wales

In Wales, the tradition of giving "Love Spoons" on Valentine's Day dates back centuries. These intricately carved wooden spoons symbolize love and commitment. Each carving has a different meaning, such as hearts for love, keys for opening doors, and wheels for support.

Valentine's Day

In Japan

In Japan, it's customary for women to give chocolates to men on Valentine's Day. However, there's a twist—there are two types of chocolates, "honmei-choco" (chocolates for true love) and "giri-choco" (obligation chocolates). Men are expected to return the gesture on March 14th, known as "White Day."



***Leap Year
2024***

Like many things in life we've simply come to accept, February 29 will cap off this month to celebrate this leap year! Besides the general acceptance, there's a reason behind most things and the reasoning behind having a February 29 every four years is simple math and science:

Leap years exist to compensate for the fact that a year is not exactly 365.25 days long. The Earth takes approximately 365.25 days to orbit the sun. To keep our calendar year synchronized with the astronomical year, which is the time it takes for the Earth to complete one orbit around the sun, an extra day is added to the calendar approximately every four years. The Gregorian calendar, which is the calendar most widely used today, includes a leap year every four years. During a leap year, an extra day is added to the month of February, making it 29 days instead of the usual 28. This additional day helps align the calendar year more closely with the actual time it takes for the Earth to complete its orbit.

The cycle of every four years becomes a ritual for many to celebrate but for those special individuals who have a birthday on February 29, it's all the more an event to acknowledge their uniqueness! The odds of being born on February 29 are approximately 1 in 1,461 (365 days in a year multiplied by 4 years in a leap year cycle).

Famous birthdays you might recognize are Ja Rule (Jeffrey Atkins), an American rapper, singer, and actor born February 29, 1976, or Jessie T. Usher, an American actor known for his role in the TV series "Survivor's Remorse" and the film "Independence Day: Resurgence." born February 29, 1992, or Tony Robbins (Anthony J. Mahavorick), an American author, entrepreneur, and motivational speaker born February 29, 1960, and Dinah Shore (Frances Rose Shore), an American singer, actress, and television personality born February 29, 1916 and died in 1994.

Well Known Leap Day Events

Leap Year Day Riots (1288):

On February 29, 1288, Scotland experienced what came to be known as the "Leap Year Day Riots." Tradition held that in a leap year, a woman could propose to a man on February 29. In response to this, Queen Margaret allegedly passed a law requiring a fine to be paid by any man who refused a proposal. The result was a series of riots, and the law was eventually repealed.

Christopher Columbus Leaves the Americas (1493):

On February 29, 1493, Christopher Columbus left the Americas on his return voyage to Spain during his first voyage.

Did you know the Friends of Little Valley and Little Valley Happenings can be digitally integrated in right with your personal device?

At [www.https://www.lvhappenings.com/events-calendar](https://www.lvhappenings.com/events-calendar)

our event calendar can be directly imported to your device at home so you can be sure to never miss an event again!

While exploring our website and specifically the Events Calendar tab, note that you can submit your own event to us! Let us do the job and spread the word on your behalf, just click right [HERE](#).

Fill in with your event details and let us take care of the heavy lifting.

In another effort to stay connected, we're looking for businesses to be featured as our Business Spotlight each month. If you are connected as an

employer, employee, or any small business in Little Valley, reach out and let us highlight you!

Check out our Business Spotlight Drop box [HERE](#) with everything you could ever need to be the star of the next Happenings newsletter!

Also, if you want to join our Friends of Little Valley Volunteer Group, check the link below to join in on being a part of our event team and become a friend too! We look forward to hearing from everyone; we're thrilled to continue to highlight all that excites us about calling Little Valley our home!

[Friends of Little Valley Volunteer Sign-Up Form](#)