

My Wellsburg

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Community News

My Wellsburg Newsletter

By Richard Starck

The objectives of this newsletter coupled with the new website are to engage people, businesses and organizations in the revitalization efforts of Wellsburg and to keep the community informed of news, activities, and events in the area.

By opening two-way communication with the Wellsburg community, we hope to find those with the desire to renovate our city. There will be many opportunities to express your thoughts on what Wellsburg can become.

If you're not satisfied with the status quo and you're willing to expend some effort to fix it, send me an email and let's get started.

[Email Rick Starck](#)

Wellsburg Geology

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In a small percentage of cases, our confirmation email does not make it to your inbox. This may be because your email system diverted our confirmation request to your spam or junk folder. To confirm, you must open your spam/junk folder, indicate to your system that it is not spam/junk mail, and send the confirmation. **Failure to confirm** will result in removal from our subscriber list.

How 911 Works

Even though 99 percent of the U.S. population has the 911 service, it is not a nationwide system. Most of the 911 systems are handled at the county level. In our case, Brooke County developed and manages our system from the County Building in Wellsburg. Christina White is the Director of the 911 Center and has over 20 years of service.

Talk April 24



On Sunday, April 24, from 1:00 to 2:30 PM, retired geologist Fred Zelt will speak with the public in Wellsburg's 17th Street Park. Fred is a Pittsburgh native and ExxonMobil retiree with degrees from MIT and Princeton who leads geology-themed hikes and bike rides. In 2020, Fred realized that the large outcrop across the river from Wellsburg provides an excellent geology learning opportunity. He held a geology class for adults from Pennsylvania in 17th Street Park. Fred would like to offer a similar learning opportunity for people in Wellsburg and see the outcrop daily.



On April 24, Fred will speak about the outcrop across the river from Wellsburg



The equipment in the Center automatically displays the callers' phone number, name, and address. This saves valuable time, and it happens because the various phone companies detect a 911 call, retrieve the caller information from their database, and route the call with the attached information to the appropriate 911 Center (aka Public Safety Answering Point or PSAP). The operator at the PSAP is trained to gather information about the emergency and alert the right agency – police, fire, or emergency medical services (EMS). Other software or equipment assisting the process includes Computer Controlled Radio Interface to automatically activate pagers, computer-aided dispatch (CAD) to provide directions to the emergency location, detours, and that the caller is disabled. Other equipment provides recording all

and the regional geologic setting of the upper Ohio Valley. He will bring samples of local rocks and fossils for the public to examine. After the talk, Fred will be available to discuss and answer questions. He also invites the public to bring rocks and fossils for identification.



We will meet in the grassy area of 17th Street Park near the river, between baseball fields and past the end of 18th Street. Please dress for the weather and bring a folding chair.

Fred asks that participants please bring binoculars, paper or notebook, and a pencil to observe and sketch rock layers in the large outcrop across the river. He plans to record and post online a talk about Wellsburg area geology. A link to the address will be shared in this newsletter before the April 24 live event. As an example of a similar presentation, here is a [link](#) to a talk Fred created in 2021 before a geology-themed bike ride on the Butler-Freeport Community Trail north of Pittsburgh.

Did you know?

Wellsburg has a giant sycamore tree from which many property deeds are measured. Do you know where the tree is located? Hint: The My Wellsburg website tells all.

conversations (caller and agencies), backup generators, and uninterruptable power supplies to keep the PSAP operating in the event of a power outage.



All this works amazingly well when the call comes in over a landline. When the call originates from a mobile phone, the location can't be looked up in a database. What does happen is either the triangulation of a site using three cell towers or the use of the mobile phone's GPS to get a longitude-latitude position. The position is not exact but will get the emergency responders within 300 meters of the location.

What happens when the caller doesn't speak English? The PSAP operator can include an AT&T language operator in the phone conversation to provide translation services. AT&T offers services in 140 different languages. If the caller is hearing/speech impaired, TTY/TDD terminals can be employed.

The 911 Center is looking forward to implementing a new system known

Change of Publication Schedule

The limitation of only one staff member has necessitated a change in the publication of this newsletter from twice a month to once a month. Effective immediately the My Wellsburg Newsletter will be published on the second Wednesday of each month.

as [SIRN](#) (Statewide Interoperable Radio Network). Last night the Wellsburg City Council voted to adopt and become part of the new system. This is a significant step forward for the safety of our police officers and the community.

Police moving to Middle School?

The city council has unanimously approved moving the Police Department to the Middle School. After the space in the City Building is vacated, there most likely be some interior renovation.

City of Wellsburg

City Building Chair Lift Installed



When the old chair lift quit working, the city could not find replacement

City Hall Front Entrance Delayed



The front entrance renovations to City Hall have been delayed due to the weather. You might have noticed a distinctive bend to the flagpole. This occurred when the construction crew attempted to relocate the pole.

The good news is we will now have a new pole installed by the monuments to the right of the entrance.

parts. A new chair lift was ordered, and installation has been completed. Once again, we have handicapped access to the second-floor offices and council chambers.



Please note if you plan on visiting the building, you must do so through the rear entrance.

Grant Writer Opportunity

City Council voted to hire Norm Schwertfeger as a grant writer for Wellsburg. The city has long needed a person to fill the position. Mr. Schwertfeger served 18 years as a Brooke County Commissioner and has 21 years of experience with West Virginia University leading to his current position of Regional Coordinator of Community Development.

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