



THE VILLAGE OF WALBRIDGE NEWSLETTER

Published by the Village of Walbridge, Ohio

Fall | Winter 2025 Edition Volume 2 | Issue 2

<https://www.walbridgeohio.org/>

VILLAGE UPDATE

A Message from the **Mayor**

Greetings, Fellow Walbridge Neighbors!

I hope you've all had a fun-filled and memorable summer! While spring brought us chilly, wet days, summer certainly delivered with long stretches of sunshine and warmth. It was the kind of season that makes you truly appreciate small-town life.

Our village parks were alive with activity—youth baseball, adult softball, pickleball, basketball—there was something for everyone. The Village Pool was buzzing almost daily with families soaking up the sun, and the new playground at Railway Park quickly became a community favorite. I'm incredibly proud of that improvement, and I'm even prouder of how much joy it's brought to our families.

One of my summer highlights was stepping into the role of guest barista at Random Acts of Walbridge! It was a blast (even if I'm no match for our local coffee pros), and let's just say I made up for my lack barista skills with a couple scoops of chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream! If you haven't there been yet—it's a must-visit gem right here in town.

Can you believe we're only five months away from a new year? While the seasons change, the work continues here in the Village. We're gearing up for several road improvement projects, including sections of Raymond, Breckman, and Blair Drive. If our budget allows, we also hope to repave the parking lot by the library, as well as Ivy Court on the south side of the Village.

I understand the need for continued road and infrastructure improvements across Walbridge, and while balancing funding and grants can be a challenge, we're making steady progress. I'm excited to share that for 2026, we've already secured partial grant funding to improve Allen Street and Holly Drive. In partnership with Lake Township, Walbridge Road from Luckey to E. Broadway is also slated for repaving—another win made possible through grant funding.

In fact, through the hard work of our administrative team, we've secured over **\$500,000 in grant funding** in just the past couple of years. These funds have been vital in supporting our infrastructure and enhancing our parks. And we're not stopping there—we have more grant applications in the pipeline for sidewalk improvements along Union Street and further upgrades at Loop Park. Fingers crossed for great news on those fronts!

I'm also proud to report that Walbridge remains in a **strong and stable financial position**. Since I became Mayor in 2012, we've steadily increased our cash reserves—allowing us to make meaningful improvements without placing additional financial burden on our residents. While many neighboring communities are turning to levies and tax increases, we've stayed committed to fiscal responsibility and grant-seeking to get the job done.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our incredible Village administrative team. Their commitment to service, transparency, and progress keeps Walbridge moving forward. And remember—we're always here for you. Our open-door policy means exactly that: **you're always welcome to share your ideas, questions, or concerns.**

Together, let's continue building on the pride we all feel for this wonderful Village we call home. Here's to a vibrant fall season and all the community spirit it brings.

With warmest regards,

Mayor Edward A. Kolanko

THE VILLAGE OF WALBRIDGE

Dates to Remember

Sept. 3, 2025 - Council Meeting in Admin Building at 6:30 PM

Sept. 17, 2025 - Council Meeting in Admin Building at 6:30 PM

Oct. 1, 2025 - Coffee with a Cop in Admin Building at 8:30A - 10:00A

Oct. 1, 2025 - Council Meeting in Admin Building at 6:30 PM

Oct. 15, 2025 - Council Meeting in Admin Building at 6:30 PM

Oct. 25, 2025 - Trunk-or-Treat at Admin Bldg. from 3 - 4 PM

Oct. 31, 2025 - Halloween - Trick or Treat 6-7:30 PM

Nov. 5, 2025 - Council Meeting in Admin Building at 6:30 PM

Nov. 19, 2025 - Council Meeting in Admin Building at 6:30 PM

Dec. 3, 2025 - Council Meeting in Admin Building at 6:30 PM

Dec. 07, 2025 - Christmas Tree Lighting at Admin. Bldg. at 6:00 PM

Dec. 17, 2025 - Council Meeting in Admin Building at 6:30 PM

Police

(419) 666-8412

Non-Emergency

(419) 666-1447

Fire Dept. (Non-Emergency)

Lake Township Fire

(419) 838-6536

Wood County Dispatch

(419) 666-1447

Emergency

911

Mayor

(419) 666-1830

Administrative Team

(419) 666-1830

Fiscal Office / Income Taxes

(419) 666-1830

Street Department

(419) 666-1830

Northwestern Water & Sewer

(419) 354-9090

Republic Refuse Services

(419) 726-9465

Toledo Edison

(800) 447-3333

http://



<https://www.walbridgeohio.org/>

Find us on 

@VillageofwalbridgeOhio

THE VILLAGE OF
WALBRIDGE

FALL BRUSH PICKUP

will begin:
Monday, September 29th - Friday, October 3rd, 2025

*Please place brush on the curb in piles
that are NOT blocking drains.*

THE VILLAGE OF
WALBRIDGE

Leaf Pickup

The Village of Walbridge Maintenance Team
will be out to pick up **Leaves** that have been
raked into piles along curb edge on:

**Monday, October 6th - December 5th
or the first snowfall**

Please take care to NOT block sewers - as this can cause catastrophic damage to our sewer system OR rake leaves
into the street. Please do NOT add BRUSH, GARBAGE, or ANIMAL WASTE to your leaf piles, as these things will
DAMAGE our EQUIPMENT!!!



THE VILLAGE OF
WALBRIDGE

TRICK OR TREAT

**IN THE VILLAGE
WILL BE ON 10/31/2025 FROM
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**



<https://www.walbridgeohio.org/>

PERMITS



Completing a Fall or Winter Project? You may need to obtain a PERMIT with the Village. Any time you are building or remodeling commercial or residential properties within the Village of Walbridge Corporation limit you must FIRST obtain a permit. This gives you legal permission from the Village to begin construction work or demolition. These permits must be obtained **BEFORE** your project can begin.

Contractors are also required to obtain a CONTRACTOR PERMIT with the Village prior to doing contractor work within the Village Corporation limit.

Our permits are now **ONLINE** and you can apply for a permit **24-7** through our Village website: [https://www.walbridgeohio.org/](https://www.walbridgeohio.org/DEPARTMENTS/SERVICES) under the DEPARTMENTS/SERVICES tab.

If you have questions about building or contractor permits you can contact the Zoning Office at 419-666-1830 Monday - Friday from 8 AM - 4:30 PM.



MAKE SURE YOUR HOUSE NUMBER CAN BE SEEN FROM THE ROAD

Clearly display your house number so emergency responders can quickly find you.

The Village of Walbridge Ordinance Chapter 1313 (1313.05) requires that the owners and each adult occupant of all houses, and structures located on a public right-of-way on which street addresses have been assigned within the Village of Walbridge shall display the address number assigned to said structure in a legible manner. Said number shall be fixed in a conspicuous place on the front of the building and shall be visible from the public right-of-way. In cases of a corner lot the number shall be fixed on the side facing the public right-of-way to which the number applies. The numbers shall be at least three inches in height and distinct from the building color.

Anyone failing to comply may be fined a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100.00). Each day of noncompliance may be considered a separate offense. Making sure your house numbers can be seen helps first responders find your location easier.

THE VILLAGE OF
WALBRIDGE

Have YOU Signed Up for
The Village of Walbridge
Newsletter?



<http://eepurl.com/iL5WkK>



TAX QUESTIONS?

Check out our Website for more information or give us a CALL at (419) 666-1830.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS



Sunday, November 2, 2025 at 2:00 AM

Daylight Savings Time Ends at 2:00 A.M. on Sunday, November 2, 2025. Please remember to move the clocks back ONE HOUR. It is also recommended to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on this day!



THE VILLAGE OF WALBRIDGE TAX DEPARTMENT

Do I need to file a Village of Walbridge Tax Return? Find out below!

All residents, and partial residents, are required to file a Village of Walbridge Tax Return even if you do not have any income.

Retired

Even if you are retired we still require a copy of your federal 1040, or 1040 SR in order to confirm that you are only receiving Social Security or a Pension. Just for your 1st year of retirement.

Disabled

If you are disabled, we need your award letter from social security, or documentation for long-term disability

What do I need to file?



To file a Village of Walbridge Tax Return, we need copies of the following documents.

- W-2(s)
- Federal 1040(1st page) or 1040-SR (1st and 2nd pages)
- Schedule C, E, or F (if applicable)
- Schedule K-1 (1065) or K-1 (1120S) and the 2nd page of the Schedule E

Please do not drop off originals as we keep them for our records.

What if I'm a Landlord?



Landlords are required to report any new tenants to the Village within 30 days, and must file a Village of Walbridge Tax Return on the rental income. Our landlord tenant form will be available on our website.

Non-Filers

If you receive a non-filing letter from our office, please contact us as soon as possible. We're here to help resolve any issues in order to bring your account into good standing.

Questions?

Call us at: (419) 666-1830

Email: taxcommissioner@walbridgeohio.org

Website: www.walbridgeohio.org/tax-forms

<https://www.walbridgeohio.org/>





WALBRIDGE

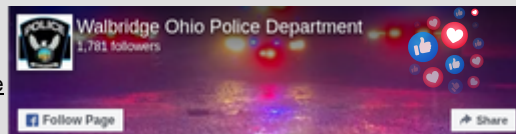
POLICE

Walbridge, OH



Check Out

<https://www.facebook.com/walbridgeohiopolic>
for UPCOMING EVENTS, including
Car Seat Safety Check!



REGISTER YOUR DOG!

Help us help you! Registering your dog with the village ensures their safety. If we do not have your contact information, this may result in your furry friend being sent to a local animal shelter.



SCAN HERE

For more information,
call the Walbridge
Police Department.
(419) 666-8412

www.walbridgeohio.org/police

THE VILLAGE OF WALBRIDGE

General Rules for E-Bikes



Traffic Laws: E-bike riders MUST follow ALL traffic laws that apply to bicycles

Where You Can Ride an Electric Bike:

- **Bike lanes & Paths** - Class 1 and 2 e-bikes are allowed to use Bike Lanes and Paths; Class 3 may be able to if bike lanes/paths are far away from highways.
- **Roads & Streets** - all Classes are allowed to ride on roads and streets, obeying same laws as bicycles.
- **Sidewalks** - Riders must turn the power off before using the sidewalk.
- **Multi-Use Trails** - Multi-use trails reserved for non-motorized use are off-limits to all electric bikes; also applies to trails for mountain bikes, hiking, or similar purposes. All multi-use trails are accessible to electric bike riders.
- **State Parks** - Most State Parks in Ohio permit the use of all electric bike classes.



No License or Registration: E-bikes are NOT subject to the same registration, licensing, or insurance requirements as motor vehicles.



Age Restrictions: No age restrictions for Class 1 and 2 e-bikes. Riders of Class 3 e-bikes MUST be at least 16 years old.

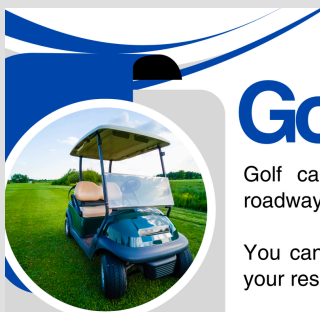


Helmets: Helmets are REQUIRED for riders AND passengers of Class 3 e-bikes in Walbridge.

Classes Defined:

Class 1: Pedal-assist ONLY, with a max speed of 20 mph. Allowed on bike paths and multi-use paths.
Class 2: Equipped with a throttle & max speed of 20 mph. Allowed on bike paths and multi-use paths.
Class 3: Pedal-assist ONLY, with a max speed of 28 mph. Riders must be 16yo and wear helmet. Can be ridden on roads with speed limits of 25 mph or less and on bike lanes, but not on paths designated for pedestrians or mountain bikes.

For More Information: See Section 4511.522 of the Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws | Electric Bicycles; labels; compliance with Federal Regulations; permitted use; violations



Do you have a GOLF CART?

Let us help you get it street legal by following the guidelines and getting inspections done!

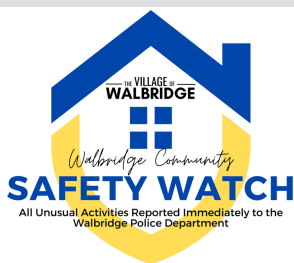
Golf Cart Inspections

Golf carts are allowed in the Village of Walbridge and on public roadways, **BUT** you **MUST** follow the proper guidelines.

You can schedule an appointment to have a WPD Officer come out to your residence or meet at the Police Department to inspect your golf cart.

Once approved, you can take the inspection form to the BMV to obtain licensing for the cart.

MORE details about operating a golf cart in the Village can be found here: www.walbridgeohio.org/police, or call us at (419) 666-8412.



Walbridge Community Safety Watch is open to ANY resident living in the Village of Walbridge who wants to make their neighborhood safer. By working together, and in conjunction with the Walbridge Police Department, the Walbridge Community Safety Watch helps to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in the Village.

For updates and meeting information, visit:
<https://www.walbridgeohio.org/block-watch>

E-Bike Safety in the Village of Walbridge

The safety of our youth is a top priority for the Walbridge Police Department — and it starts with education.

As electric bicycles (e-bikes) become increasingly popular across Ohio, it's important that both parents and young riders understand the laws and safety requirements before hitting the road.

Under Ohio Revised Code Section 4511.522, specific guidelines outline how e-bike riders can stay in compliance with federal regulations. To help families navigate these rules, we've developed a convenient e-bike safety flyer with essential information for both parents and children.

We encourage all parents considering the purchase of an electric bicycle for their child or teen to review this material and ensure everyone understands how to ride legally and safely in our community.

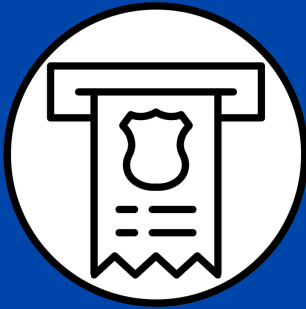
Questions? Contact the Walbridge Police Department at 419-666-8412.

Let's work together to keep our youth safe and our streets secure.



Mayor's Court

Mayor's Court is held on the first (1st) and third (3rd) **Wednesday** of EVERY MONTH at 4:00 PM and is located in the Village of Walbridge Administrative Office Building at 705 N. Main Street, Walbridge, OH 43465.



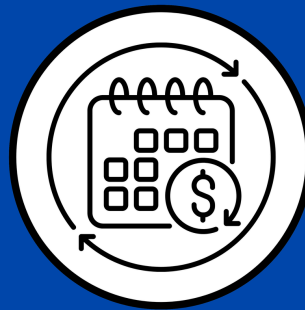
Got a ticket?

and not sure what to do next?

TICKETS & DOCKETS CAN BE ACCESSED THROUGH THE MAYOR'S COURT ONLINE DOCKETING SYSTEM AT:

[HTTPS://WWW.OHIOTICKETPAYMENTS.COM/WALBRIDGE/DOCKETSEARCH.PHP](https://www.ohioticketpayments.com/walbridge/docketsearch.php)

Payment Plans Available



FOR ALL FINES & COSTS.
CONTACT THE COURT FOR MORE INFORMATION!

OHGO

Planning to travel this Fall/Winter and want to check real-time road conditions and traffic information? Check OHGO before your go. OHGO reports current road activity, speeds, incidents, travel delays, closures, and severe weather conditions for all of Ohio's Highways. You can download the OHGO app today or visit: www.ohgo.com

CodeRED™
WEATHER WARNING

Get real-time Emergency Alerts direct to your smart phone, home phone, or email.

**REGISTER YOUR ADDRESS ONLINE OR
DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY!**

SEE THESE?



INFORMATION:

MAGISTRATE

C. Drew Griffith

****CONTACT**

Mayor's Court: (419) 315-3773
Court Fax: (419) 661-8458

Perrysburg Municipal Court:
(419) 872-7900

Walbridge Prosecutor,
Brian Ballenger

Court is CLOSED during the following holidays:

- New Years' Day
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- President's Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

Around Town



THE STREETS DEPARTMENT

Maintenance & Streets Department Update



Employee R. Hauter Rolling Down the Uneven Surface at the Park

The Maintenance Department has had a busy and productive year, working hard to improve the appearance, safety, and functionality of our Village. Crews have jetted several storm sewers to help address localized flooding issues during heavy rains. Routine tasks like mowing and weed trimming have kept our public spaces well-maintained, while extra attention was given to keeping the parks clean and inviting throughout the baseball and softball season.

At Railway Park, the team repainted the parking lines and updated the traffic pattern to improve safety and traffic flow. They also played a key role in the recent playground upgrade, ensuring the area is safe and enjoyable for children and families. New blue trash receptacles have been placed around town to maintain a clean and cohesive look throughout the Village.

The Maintenance Department also played a crucial role in the successful operation of the Walbridge Pool at Aqua Terrace this season. With numerous hot days this summer, their efforts were key to keeping the pool open and enjoyable for all. The team ensured water quality was maintained by closely monitoring and balancing chemical levels, while also keeping the facility clean, safe, and inviting for residents and visitors alike. Their behind-the-scenes work allowed the community to fully enjoy the pool during the peak of the season, providing a refreshing escape and a place to gather throughout the summer.

In addition, staff trimmed low-hanging tree limbs over sidewalks, helped install several new street and traffic signs—including the new "Welcome to Walbridge" sign off I-280—and added lighting in response to resident requests. The Maintenance Department continues to take pride in their work and remains dedicated to serving the community with professionalism and care.

2025 Village Highlights & Community Projects



In 2025, the Village of Walbridge has continued its proactive approach to community improvement. Highlights include the new playground and long-awaited zipline at Railway Park, funded through grants, along with a new traffic pattern to ease congestion during busy game nights. A ribbon cutting celebrated these upgrades! We had the installation of new signs at Railway Park, Loop Park, and the I-280 exit welcoming visitors to Walbridge, offering consistency throughout our community. Cleanup efforts at Veteran's Park have improved the space, and pet waste stations and an even pet pantry, that was built and installed by a local Boy Scout—add convenience for park users. We also embraced a show of community pride with "Thank You Walbridge Police Department" signs on lawns throughout the Village. And of course, the Walbridge Library remains one of our most valued community treasures.

ZONING

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A COMPLAINT](#)

Normal Business Hours are:

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Monday - Friday

Village Forms, Zoning Application, Taxation can all be completed by stopping into the Village

Office, calling

(419) 666-1830,

or visiting our website:

www.walbridgeohio.org/

2025

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ron Liwo, President

Karen Baron

Sue Hart-Douglas

Caryl Stone

LaDenna Johnston

Thomas L. Urbina

The Village of Walbridge website has a button to SUBMIT A CODE ENFORCEMENT COMPLAINT to the Village of Walbridge. You may visit: <https://www.walbridgeohio.org/zoning> and click on "CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A CODE ENFORCEMENT COMPLAINT." Complaints reported on this page will be sent to the CloudPermit portal where a team member will view and create a case regarding your complaint. If your concern is an EMERGENCY, please call the Walbridge Police Department at 419-666-8412. The portal is NOT monitored 24-7 or by the Walbridge Police Department.



Cloudpermit
ZONING PERMIT APPLICATION



The NEW CloudPermit Zoning Application is available 24-7 ONLINE!!!

A Zoning Permit is required for Construction, Enlargement, or Renovation of Structures, including but not limited to:

- Garages
- Accessory Structures: Decks, Sheds, Patios and Porches
- Roofing, Siding, Windows
- Ponds, Pools, Fences
- Driveways, Sidewalks (Excavation/Installation/Repairs)

Please refer to the Zoning Code for all structures requiring a permit.



[http://](http://www.walbridgeohio.org/)

<https://www.walbridgeohio.org/>

Find us on

@VillageofwalbridgeOhio

Village of Walbridge
COUNCIL

The First and Third
Wednesdays of Each
Month



Visit the Village of Walbridge website located at:
<https://www.walbridgeohio.org/>
for Council Meeting Schedule,
Council Meeting Minutes, and
Online Forms.

<https://www.walbridgeohio.org/>

THE VILLAGE OF WALBRIDGE

SAVE The Date




Wednesday, October 01, 2025
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS. ONE CUP AT A TIME.
Join your neighbors and police officers for coffee and conversation.
@ the Admin Building | 705 N. Main Street, Walbridge, OH 43465



Mark your calendars for a season full of community fun in the Village of Walbridge!

We're excited to share several upcoming events that bring neighbors together and celebrate the spirit of our village. Join us for these festive and family-friendly gatherings:

Coffee with a Cop

Wednesday, October 1, 2025 | 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM
Walbridge Administration Building | 705 N. Main Street

Stop by for a cup of hot coffee, enjoy a donut, and take the opportunity to chat with members of the Walbridge Police Department in a relaxed and friendly setting.

Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 25, 2025 | 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Back Parking Lot – Walbridge Administration Building | 705 N. Main Street

Join us for our annual Trunk or Treat! Community members are invited to decorate their vehicles, dress in costume, and bring candy to share with local trick-or-treaters. This event is open to all ages and is a great way to enjoy Halloween in a safe, festive environment. REGISTER your car at: <https://tinyurl.com/treat2025>

Village Trick-or-Treating

Friday, October 31, 2025 | 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Get ready for a spooktacular evening! Residents are encouraged to turn on porch lights and welcome costumed visitors throughout the neighborhood during the official trick-or-treat hour.

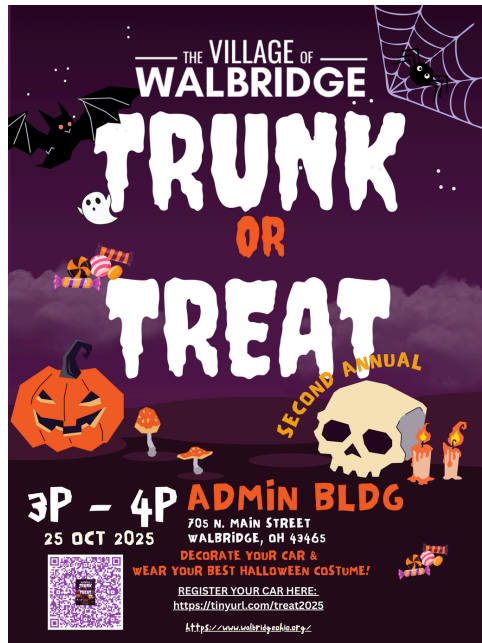
2nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 7, 2025 | 6:00 PM

Walbridge Administration Building Lawn | 705 N. Main Street

Celebrate the start of the holiday season with us as we light our 30-foot Christmas tree and welcome a visit from Santa Claus. Enjoy festive music, twinkling lights, and time with family, friends, and neighbors.

We look forward to seeing you at these exciting community events! | Stay connected with us for more updates and details.



THE VILLAGE OF WALBRIDGE
TRUNK OR TREAT
SECOND ANNUAL
3P - 4P ADMIN BLDG
25 OCT 2025
705 N. MAIN STREET
WALBRIDGE, OH 43465
DECORATE YOUR CAR & WEAR YOUR BEST HALLOWEEN COSTUME!
REGISTER YOUR CAR HERE:
<https://tinyurl.com/treat2025>
<http://www.walbridgeohio.org/>



THE VILLAGE OF WALBRIDGE
Halloween TRICK OR TREAT Times
FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 31, 2025
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM



THE VILLAGE OF WALBRIDGE
Christmas Tree Lighting
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 07, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
THE ADMIN BUILDING
705 N. MAIN STREET
WALBRIDGE, OH 43465
JOIN SANTA IN LIGHTING OUR 30FT TALL CHRISTMAS TREE. BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY OUT AND ENJOY THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS.

Be sure to SUBSCRIBE to The Village of Walbridge
ONLINE NEWSLETTER

<https://www.walbridgeohio.org/contact>





AROUND THE Village



Walbridge Businesses:



Jenifer L. Fox, LLC



409 North Main Street, Walbridge, Ohio 43465, United States
567-218-1812 Call or Text
Hours:
Your business is very important to us!
We are open Monday through Friday by appointment.
Please call/text us at 419-367-7690 to schedule your time to come in.
Sunday: Closed

Small Town Friendly Family Restaurant

101 S. Main Street
Walbridge, Ohio 43465
567-249-4202

Visit us on Facebook for Weekly Specials:

<https://www.facebook.com/SusiesSkillet>

FALL updates



NORTHWESTERN
THE DISTRICT
WATER & SEWER

Water Service Line Identification

This fall, our crews will continue identifying water service lines in Walbridge to comply with the Ohio EPA's requirement to identify all public waterlines by 2027. The process involves digging a small, 1-foot-diameter hole where your water line connects to the public water main. While most waterline connections are near sidewalks, some in Walbridge are in backyards near fence lines. Homeowners will receive a notification letter before work begins. For questions, email Tom McGrain at tmgrain@nwwsd.org or call 419-354-9090, Ext. 155.

Hydrant Flushing

Fire Hydrant flushing crews will be in Walbridge this fall to complete their annual hydrant inspection. This process can cause additional sediment in your water, if this occurs, avoid washing clothes and flush your tap water at the faucet for several minutes.

Sewer Camera Inspection

You may have noticed The District's sewer camera truck in your neighborhood. Our team is investigating the underground sanitary sewer system using robotic video technology and GPS to pinpoint issues for future maintenance and possible projects. Please use caution if you see our camera truck crew working in your area.

If you have any questions on these or other water and sewer topics, please contact our customer service office weekdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. or email us at district@nwwsd.org.



Have you been to The District WaterShed located at the Walbridge Library, 108 N. Main Street.

This is a walk-up WaterShed location that uses a 9-Step Water Purification Process to provide great-tasting clean drinking water at a low price of \$.25 per gallon or \$1.25 for 5 gallons. Anyone can use The WaterShed - just bring your container!

HISTORY LESSON

THE VILLAGE OF
WALBRIDGE



The Village of Walbridge

“From Owl’s Nest to Walbridge: A Journey Through Time”



Celebrating the Roots and Rise of Our Village



In our last issue, we learned that before it was Walbridge, it was known simply—and curiously—as the “Owl’s Nest.” But it didn’t take long for a few determined townsfolk to carve out a new identity for their budding community. The arrival of the Toledo and Ohio River Railroad in 1870 sparked the beginning of a transformation. A year later, the federal government granted the village its very first post office, marking Walbridge’s entry onto the map.

The name “Walbridge” was chosen in honor of Henry Walbridge, a prominent Toledo landowner who never actually lived here, but whose influence was felt in the region. In 1874, Emeretta and Harriet Warner commissioned a formal survey of the area, and by 1876, the Hocking Valley Line—what we now know as CSX Railroad—rumbled through town.

With the railroads came railroad workers, and with workers came the need for shelter. Enter The Beanery, Walbridge’s first hotel, which stood between two rail lines on Union Street around 1900. The town’s momentum was growing, and so was its population. By 1906, a new cement block schoolhouse rose on the site of what is now known as Walbridge Elementary.

Then came a major step forward: the streetcar line arrived in 1908, connecting Walbridge to Toledo, Fostoria, and Findlay. For a once-sleepy train stop, things were starting to move fast.

By 1913, the community was ready to govern itself. On March 25, Walbridge officially incorporated. A.E. Kusian became the first Mayor, and Elery Scott the first Marshal. Just weeks later, the first village council meeting was held on April 7.

Progress swept through the village in the following years. Perry Street became the first paved road in 1919, and the Walbridge State Bank opened its doors. In 1920, Walbridge launched its own municipal electric system, drawing power from the Ballville Dam in Fremont and lighting up the town with pride.

In 1921, William Schier was appointed the first Fire Chief, earning a modest \$10 a year. By 1928, Walbridge had its very own fire engine, delivered by rail from Columbus—a shiny new Seagraves pumper.

Among the most influential figures of the early 20th century was Mayor J.C. Loop, who served from 1930 to 1941. He was instrumental in building streets, drilling the village’s first water well, and helping to create Loop Park in 1935. The park was named in his honor and became a treasured gathering spot for generations.

Even in times of challenge, Walbridge showed resilience. The Walbridge State Bank closed in 1932 amid the Depression, and in 1949, on Christmas Eve, the village post office was robbed by safecrackers who made off with \$1,500 in bonds and \$100 in cash. Yet the village spirit never dimmed.



The Walbridge-Lake Township Fire Department was formed in 1945, and in 1958, the Walbridge Bears youth baseball team went undefeated, capturing hearts with an astonishing 58-0 season. Loop Park remained a hub for fun—hosting fireworks, summer movies, and even ice skating in winter, thanks to a flooded section of the park that turned into a community rink.

The 1960s brought major upgrades, including a \$170,000 water improvement project in 1961 and a partnership with the City of Toledo for water services. The Exchange Bank opened in 1963, and soon after, the Aqua Terrace Swim Club was built by 10 determined families. In 1994, it became a public amenity, thanks to the efforts of Councilman Cecil Adkins.

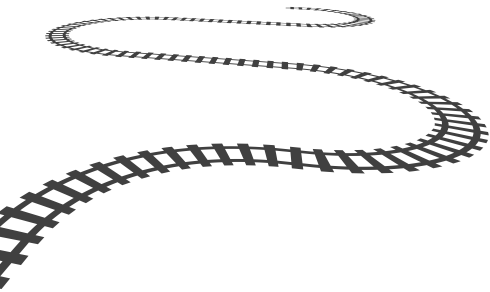
As the years rolled on, Railway Park was developed in 1983, followed by the opening of the Village Library in 1987—two projects made possible by Mayor Forrest Scarberry and Councilman Greg Pasqualone. Meanwhile, Councilmember Joanne Schiavone negotiated a groundbreaking refuse contract in the 1990s that saved residents thousands of dollars.

In 2000, surrounding neighborhoods and businesses, including Walnut Hills and Deluxe Mobile Home Parks, officially joined the Village. The heartbeat of the town was strengthened once more with the creation of Veterans Park in 2001, a cherished Main Street landmark led by Mayor Robert Robson and dedicated to those who served—and to the spirit of a grateful village.

Join us in our Spring Edition as we learn more about those early families!

THE VILLAGE OF
WALBRIDGE

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