

VILLAGE OF OSTRANDER

P O. Box 35 - Ostrander, Ohio
43061-0035

“Update from the mayor”

Dear Residents:

ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR:

Each year for the past 10 years, we have tackled at least one major project to improve either the roads or storm sewer system in the Village. Each and every one of these projects has been completed with the funding from Grants where the contribution of the Village is kept to a minimum. We have put millions of dollars into the Village through these programs and it will continue this year with the re-build and repair of the west end of North Street to include some sidewalk repair. That should begin toward the end of the summer.

As a matter of general information, the projects are usually in the \$125,000.00 to \$150,000.00 range with the actual “match” funding costs to the Village in the area of \$8,000.00 to \$10,000.00. It has enabled us to do some good things with no tax increases and minimal cost to the Village. The programs that we count on are changing however, due to the nature of the economy in general (State funding) so projects we are reviewing for the year 2014 can not be funded in the same manner.

MAINTENANCE:

The Village has hired Mike Kuhn to take over the duties of the Maintenance Department. A resident of the Village, Mike brings a great deal of experience to the position and has already made a dramatic change in the organization and performance of the job. He is well qualified and genuinely concerned with the village. We are lucky to have him and look forward to working with him.

ZONING:

Tim Guider was hired this past year to fill the position of Zoning Officer. With his experience as a surveyor as well as connection to the area, he brings considerable experience to the position. We appreciate his knowledge as well as his willingness to work with the applicants.

PLANNING:

Natural Gas offers considerable savings over Propane. In addition it is a natural resource produced in Ohio. It is not dependent on the Oil market. We certainly see this as something that would be of an advantage to the residents. We are working to make it available to those who want it. We will keep you informed with our progress.

There is considerable interest in finding one trash hauler for the village. Fewer trucks means less damage to the roads and of course we would be looking for a reasonable savings for the residents.

If you have interest in either of these subjects, please contact your council members to discuss further.

VILLAGE GROWTH:

Ostrander has gone from around 175 households to nearly 240. All that has occurred within the last 10 years and we have had the opportunity to welcome a number of new families to our community. Our summer baseball league has grown to more teams, the school sees a number of new faces and the community itself is better for it. That growth represents nearly a 50% increase in population and we anticipate 10 to 12 new families per year moving into the Village in the time to come.

Discussions have occurred relative to the third phase of Meadows of Mill Creek and although no platting proposal has been presented yet, we are certainly looking to the probability of an additional 72 houses and are planning accordingly.

SCHOOL SYSTEM:

The Buckeye Valley System is one of the best in Ohio and that along with the attractiveness of Del. County has created growth and a demand for expansion. The argument for a more centralized school rises up against the traditional community based school. The school (Buckeye Valley West) has been an important part of the Village for as long as the Village has been here. It was originally K thru 12 and over the years has been reduced by growth to K thru 4.

Radnor, one of the original three community schools in the district has been closed and those students are being bussed to both Ostrander and Ashley. A quality education for the kids is number one and we can thank the teachers and staff of all the schools for insuring that. The debate comes down to the bussing, distance and costs. It is vital to the future of the system for the people to get involved and collectively do what is in the best interests of the kids regardless of where they divide over the issue.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

The department is in it's 6th year and was established primarily as a part time Auxiliary Force to address the excessive speeding as well as "cut - through" (including dump truck) traffic.

Tickets are processed in the Del. Co. Courts and although a means of enforcement are of no economic incentive to the Village. The police presence and the deterrence has resulted in a reduction in both speed and numbers cutting through the Village.

Our officers are first and foremost highly qualified and experienced in law enforcement. They are led by a Chief with 30 years experience as a full time police officer who is active in the leadership of the statewide D.A.R.E. program, Safe School Education, recognized by MADD for leadership in OVI enforcement training and much more.

There are 8 such officers on the force, all working full time in Public Safety. Some have done active duty tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and two of our officers have volunteered in humanitarian relief efforts to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Their enforcement efforts are to the Ohio Revised Code, further validated by the Village adoption of the Ohio Basic Code. They each participate 16 hours per month which enables us to have coverage about 30 hours per week.

In addition, the Village has entered into Mutual Aid Agreements with 3 adjoining counties as well as other municipalities and villages. Those agreements enable “back up” either to the county or from the county. Our officers have dealt with numerous joint efforts that have resulted in drug related charges as well as multiple “routine” cases.

They meet often with both the mayor and a representative of the council to evaluate the progress and challenges of the time.

THE CHALLENGES AS THEY SEE THEM:

Traffic

- 1) **Intersection of Ostrander Road and 36:** The last major accident in Ostrander occurred at this location. It resulted in fatalities (one little girl). The foliage over the bridge to the west as well as the sun setting makes for near impossible visibility.
- 2) Leaving Midway Market onto 36
- 3) Leaving Leeds Farm onto 36 (during events)
- 4) Leaving Meadows of Mill Creek onto 36 (ODOT to require turn lanes as it grows)

Excessive speed / poor visibility and increased school bus, car and truck traffic makes this 36 corridor the primary risk.

Additional Traffic (cut through)

- 1) Main Street becomes an issue simply with the increase in growth of the village and surrounding area as well as school bus and pick up traffic from Radnor.

- 2) Long Trail is more tempting as a “cut through” from the golf course and will have an increase in demand simply with the increase of population.
- 3) High Street used more with the increase in east / west Village traffic.
- 4) Jacktown Road is on the edge of Ostrander, a County Road with a speed limit of 55 mph. It is the narrowest road in the area and has a dramatic blind spot.

note: All of these (cut through) roads have one major thing in common: There are kids / families on both sides. Drivers in a hurry, a little “pickled” and talking on cellphones etc. don’t make for a good mix with growing “front porch” communities.

The force is funded with about a \$10,000.00 appropriation for the year but in addition the officers have bartered for equipment, paint jobs and supplies. Personal equipment, uniforms and supplies are provided at the officers expense. In the end, however, we have an extremely well equipped and supplied force but more importantly, we have a group of very professional and dedicated individuals protecting the public peace.

LIBRARY NEWS: from Harla ...

Calling all readers!!! Summer reading begins at the Ostrander Branch of the Delaware County District Library on Saturday, June 8. For eight weeks the library will be offering programs, prizes, and fun for children of all ages. This year’s theme is Dig into Reading! Programs will include visits from the Turtle Lady, the Columbus Zoo, Preservation Parks, and storyteller Lynn Ford just to name a few.

Adults are encouraged to participate as well by signing up on line and reading three books over the summer. Besides our usual computers classes and book discussions, the library will host a special presentation by Dr. Richard Shiels from the Ohio State University on Thursday, June 20. His program which begins at 7 PM is entitled Earthworks: The Legacy of Ancient Native People and the Promise for Ohio’s Future; a discussion on Indian mounds and burial sites in Ohio.

For more information about all the exciting things going on this summer be sure to stop by the Ostrander Branch which is located at 75 N. 4th Street right behind the school. Our open hours are Tuesday-Thursday 10-8 and Friday-Saturday 10-4. You can also go to our website at www.delawarelibrary.org or call 740-666-1410 for more information.

Remember that as well as offering books and reading materials of all kinds, the library also offers Internet computers for the public, copier and fax services, and Wi-Fi throughout our building. Come visit soon!

4th of July Celebration

The Ostrander Civic Association is hard at work preparing for the annual 4th of July celebration. Activities will include the following: the parade at 10:00 AM, the chicken

barbecue immediately following the parade and a tractor pull for kids at 1:00. Fireworks will begin at dusk. And speaking of fireworks we are still seeking donations for this year's display. We are still about \$5000 short of our \$15,000 goal. All donations are welcome and can be sent to:

4th of July Committee

Box 185

Ostrander, OH 43061

Checks should be made out to the 4th of July Committee. Thank you for helping support this great community event!

CAR SHOW:

See the enclosed flyer.

Note: Open container laws do apply in Ostrander and there can be no drinking on public property. Please confine that to private property or Leb's

SKATE BOARDS / DIRT BIKES / 4 WHEELERS

There are sidewalks all over the village. The one in front of the Pizza Shop shouldn't be the only place for skateboarding. Doing so is rude to the pedestrians.

Dirt bikes and 4 wheelers have to meet certain requirements to be on the road. If you have either one, please review the law and act accordingly.

There are a number of laws that apply to these activities and we have more than enough complaints to ensure that they are addressed.

ELECTION:

There are a lot of issues this November, including Council Seats. Take the next few months and get to know those who serve and voice your opinion on the issues.

FIRST RESPONDERS:

I like to think that Ostrander is unique in that the sense of patriotism and community that we pride ourselves on is a secrete confined to our little corner of the world. In reality though, it is an American quality that is spread across the country and carried to all parts of the world. In Vietnam it was my honor to serve with a group of men who lived and died for that sense of unity and purpose.

My most vivid lesson came while listening to a old Sgt. Major tell of his exploits: Multiple tours of duty, battles, Purple Hearts, two years of captivity in a brutal POW camp and an escape that found him alone in the jungle for weeks. The list went on and when he was finished one young trooper shook his head and said, "I wouldn't go through what you went through for all the money in the world." He just looked at us and answered, "neither would I."

I am reminded of that every time I walk past the list of names on the side of the building and am relieved to know that there are people like him all over. As far back as the Revolutionary War men and women from this area have served and the tradition continues today. There are a number of your neighbors who have done multiple tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Car Show and the 4th of July are times when we raise money for the “Wounded Warrior Project” and celebrate the time in history that marked the beginning of an uncompromising spirit. Both events can always use more support, but even more importantly, your participation.

As you are walking around the village on those days you might also single out a group of men and women that in my opinion personify that same spirit. Pulling a hose into a burning building while others are running out or walking up to a car in the middle of the night not knowing what is waiting for you takes a rather unique individual. Personally, I would stack our Volunteer Fire Department and our Volunteer Police Department up against any units in the area. Something to think about when the fire siren goes off at 3:00 AM or you see a lone police car parked along 36 early in the morning in an attempt to slow down the traffic as the school busses are crossing the intersection.

“Thank you,” goes a long way.

CONCLUSION:

Ostrander is a great place to live and raise a family and like most Villages we do have our challenges. With the participation of the people and the dedication of your local government, we are certainly up to them. I grew up in this village and cherish each minute of that time and I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your mayor. With your ideas, support and involvement, we can all look forward to making this great place to live even better.

Thanks for your support

Ostrander web site: www.ostranderohio.us