

OSTRANDER “LITTLE MILL CREEK”

Dear Resident,

Each year I try and write a letter to let everyone know what might be new and where we might be heading. I thought this year I might start out by giving you some idea of where we came from.

THE PAST: I couldn't think of a better place to start then by telling you a little bit about one of the first settlers to the “Little Mill Creek” community.

Sgt. Warrington was a member of General George Washington's Select Corps of Lifeguards from 1777 to 1778. He served his country and General Washington at Valley Forge and during the battles of... Brandywine, Del., Germantown, PA, Morristown, NJ, and Trenton, NJ. Sgt. Warrington saved the life of the future first President of the United States of America by arresting a presumed friend in the act of poisoning the General's drink. Washington banished the man to Canada. Sgt. Warrington also served in the War of 1812.

In 1808 Delaware County is formed.
In 1814 Scioto Township was formed.
In 1815 The War of 1812 ends.
In 1842 “Little Mill Creek” Post Office established.
In 1851 the Rail Road begins.
In 1852 “Little Mill Creek” is platted.

Ostrander is named after the Surveyor and Civil Engineer hired by the Rail Road.

In 1861 the Civil War begins.

***Jacob Ostrander, Private, 121st Ohio Volunteer Army, Co. C
1862 - 1865***



But Ostrander's involvement in the Civil War and the abolition of slavery went way beyond Private Jacob Ostrander's service in the cause. It went to the very character and nature of our community.

William Cratty, an energetic, industrious farmer had settled with his family between the Little Mill Creek and the Scioto River (fairly close to the current Meadows of Mill Creek Sub - Division). He was a man of strong anti-slavery principles and his home was marked by the friends of slavery to be a station on the famous underground railroad. He was such an enemy



of the “slave hunters” that a reward of three thousand dollars was offered for his body, dead or alive, if delivered south of the Allegheny River. A great many escaped slaves passed through his hands and under his roof. All these escaped in violation of law ... “and all those who assisted them, either in word or deed, were liable to prosecution in any court of the United States for the assessed value of such slave, as the property”

In 1865 the Civil War ends

In 1875 Ostrander is incorporated

In 1876 the first meeting of the Village Council

(the first order of business was a loud barking dog and limiting the pay for the members. I am happy to report that the dog is still barking and the pay is still limited)

The Rail Road

Did you know? The steam engines of the past needed water to run. Along the rail road lines stops were created with water towers to supply the locomotive. When the train started up after re-filling they had to rock back and forth to gain momentum. The cars would “jerk” and the vibration would be felt around the small towns. Thus the name “jerk water”. The engine pictured was nicknamed the “JERK” and served Ostrander for years .

check out the library: The Civic Association has medallions commemorating this famous piece of Ostrander history (Proceeds to benefit the July 4th)



In 1882 a smallpox epidemic

In 1888 the first High School

In 1909 The Village Council authorizes hitching posts on the roads in front of the bank.



Ostrander Bank Building - about 1909

Now that just might have been a mistake: The Ostrander bank system was relatively new. There was a pretty clever thief lurking around. Now also at that time there was a farmer who had what was considered the fastest horse in the county. “Nutmeg” was the name of this champion and the thief waited until the right time (“Nutmeg” tied to the post), robbed the bank and stole the horse for the get-away. They never caught the thief but found “Nutmeg” a mile or so away, grazing peacefully along the Little Mill Creek

Look at the picture and you will recognize the building that has housed the bank since, even when in 1967 the Ostrander Bank merged with the Delaware County Bank.

.....but then to the history

In 1910 The Ostrander Banking Company purchased a safe. (*probably a good idea*)
In 1913 a broken wheel caused 22 rail road cars to leave the tracks, five of which landed at the base of the trestle over “Little Mill Creek”



Ostrander men and women who answered the call

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Revolutionary War</i> | <i>1</i> |
| <i>War of 1812</i> | <i>1</i> |
| <i>Civil War</i> | <i>1</i> |
| <i>WW I</i> | <i>79</i> |
| <i>WW II</i> | <i>191</i> |
| <i>Korea</i> | <i>37</i> |
| <i>Vietnam</i> | <i>63</i> |

It doesn't stop there. We have young men and women today that have served in wars from the Persian Gulf to the caves of Afghanistan and are ever vigilant against a fundamentalist infection that seems to have no bounds

As you walk through the neighborhood thank those who have served and a special thanks to those who have sons and daughters in harms way. They are dedicated to the preservation of our way of life.

As for the history of our community: this is just a small taste. I invite you to stop by the library or go on line. Pull up the Ostrander web site and open the page on the history. A special thanks to Dave Cooper and Carolyn Van Brimmer for their work recording our past.

PRESENT :



There is no better example of what Ostrander is all about than the 4th of July. The parade is entirely spontaneous and usually lasts in excess of an hour. The fireworks are funded by various activities throughout the year but mostly by the generous contributions of the friends of the Village. Not only is the 4th a reminder of the sacrifices and celebrations of the past but an example of the same spirit of volunteerism that we pride ourselves on today.

The Village Council still serves for only \$50.00 per month. Ostrander has one of the lowest property tax obligations of any community in the area. We fund virtually no bureaucracies, hire part - time help, offer no benefits, have no Impact fees, levies or other taxes. Currently those that work for the Village do so primarily as a service to the residents. My hat is off to each and every one of them.

Police Department: Our officers are volunteers. They fund most of their own equipment and contribute 16 hours a month in that service. Each is highly qualified, works in law enforcement or security elsewhere and some are active duty military (Reserve).

As a Department they patrol on an average of 30 hours per week. We have Mutual Aid Agreements with the adjoining Counties and Municipalities. We can all be proud of their performance for the past 6 years. I have received countless compliments from our residents as well as official expressions of gratitude from our adjoining partners.

The primary focus is the safety of the residents and to that end we identify the following challenges as priority.

- 1) The 36 corridor from Ostrander Road to the entrance of Meadow of Mill Creek.
- 2) The increase of school traffic on High Street, Main Street and Long Trail.
- 3) Excessive cut - through traffic on Jacktown Road (blind spot and extremely narrow).

36 poses a unique set of problems because the jurisdiction of the Village is broken into two small spots and the State has the final control. We will be exploring the options relative to safety and working with the State in the months to come.

Please take the time to get to know your officers and perhaps thank them for a job well done.

LIBRARY: Remember that besides offering everyone the top bestselling books and DVD's, the Library also offers internet access, fax service and color copying. The Ostrander Branch's open hours are Tuesday - Thursday 10 - 8 and Friday and Saturday 10 - 4. You can stop by for more information, check out their website at www.delawarelibrary.org or call 740 - 666 - 1410. The branch is located at 75 N. 4th St. directly behind the school.

And don't forget the "JERK" medallions!

CIVIC ASSOCIATION: Can you believe it? We are already in fund raising mode for the 2115 Fireworks. There are a number of other activities planned this year and they could certainly use your help (money of course but more importantly they need more volunteers). If you want to participate with a wonderful group of your neighbors please talk to Harla at the Library.

WEBSITE: This gets better all the time. Bob Taylor does a great job. It's all there.

“HUMPDAY HELPERS”: Have you noticed the newly landscaped Ostrander signs? Have you seen a bunch of kids in town on Wednesday mornings and wondered what they're doing? There's a new organization in town called the Hump Day Helpers. It is made up of kids and their families who provide landscaping services and basic maintenance for people in need. Local resident, Kelly Osborne, created the group in hopes of empowering kids to address the needs of others. “Kids need to see the world in a different way and to know they can make a difference,” she says. The organization started with just a few families and now boasts over 100 helpers. The kids look forward to working next to their friends even with summer fun competing for their attention. “When kids see trash by a lake, they think somebody else will get that. When kids are Hump Day Helpers, they say, ‘We can do it ourselves,’ ” says Annabelle Rossi, age 7. If you know someone in need, you can contact The Hump Day Helpers at 513-254-5314. (written by Sam Rossi)

I asked one of the mothers about the name? She said it was all the kids choice. I had to chuckle and comment on how neat I thought it was. She wrinkled her eyebrow and answered, “you don't have to wear the T - Shirt”

MERRY SHAMROCKS 4 - H CLUB Our thanks for placing flowers on the graves of our veterans on Memorial Day and pitching in and cleaning the school grounds after the 4th. A special thanks to them for planting a tree in honor of Bruce Stayner at the Firehouse.

PURE COUNTRY 4 - H: Danielle Rogers is the advisor and they spent the days leading up to the parade cleaning up the streets and painting benches and flower boxes.

NATURAL GAS: There has been a lot of discussion, interest and speculation about this project. It is a considerable savings over Propane and an Ohio product. We are very actively pursuing this utility. We are close as far as some of the transportation / infrastructure issues are concerned but are missing the supply point part of the project. We have come close a few times but are not in the position to provide it yet. We will keep working.

FUTURE:

Our community has grown with an increase of 60% in the past 10 years and is on the move. I like to think it is because of what we offer: A neighborhood where new faces bring new talents, experiences and ideas. If you can combine that with the spirit of our ancestry still present along the “Little Mill Creek”, I think you have a pretty good definition of “Progress”.

In the months to come we will deal with the age old problem of doing more with less but you have a good group of Council members who only want the best for the community. Talk to them. Get involved.

My thanks to all those who pitch in. There are many more than I mentioned here.

If you want to get a true sense of our heritage make your way to the end of North Street, stand in the shade of 100 year old trees and take a peek at the trestle. I go there from time to time. Not sure, but I do think on one special morning I actually saw “Nutmeg” nibbling grass.



“Little Mill Creek” The Village of Ostrander

“Have a wonderful summer!”

