

# The Village News

Southwest Gateway to Ashtabula County

Spring 2015  
Volume 10



This picture is from a postcard mailed in 1911. It depicts S.R. 45. On the post card it is referred to as Warren Ave, looking north. To the left of the photograph, it appears is U.S. Route 322, between the white building and the brick building. On the right side of the photo is where the current barbershop is. We can only imagine how they dealt with snow plowing back then.



We know we are optimistic as we publish this Newsletter, but soon the Grand Valley will look like this again.

By Don Herbster  
Council President

I feel honored and privileged to be the Council President. I first joined the Orwell Village Council in September 1978 when I was appointed to a vacant Council seat. Orwell Village had six councilmen, a mayor and three Board of Public Affairs members, a newly hired Solicitor, David McCombs, a part-time Clerk and a part-time water-sewer clerk.

Council meetings were held on the second Tuesday of the month. Council pay was \$6.00 per meeting, only if you attended, and the pay was semi-annual.

The Village Hall was on East Main St. in Today's Police Department, a remodeled Gulf Station. The Village Hall was only half the size of the current police station. A corner Clerk's office had been recently constructed. The gas station's office housed the Police Department and the restrooms were accessed from the outside. The water & sewer clerk worked from her home.

The Police Department consisted of an older police cruiser, with three officers funded by a grant that ended soon after.

The Fire Department were volunteers that were paid \$1.00 per year and they had a very active auxiliary called the Arsonettes.

The Street Department had one full-time employee using a pick-up truck. We had our only water wells on Morris Road.

And, to finance our operations we had property taxes and the income tax that was originated in 1977.

Yes, times have certainly changed. We as a Village are required to provide so much more to serve our residents.

This coming year we have a lot to accomplish by all of our departments.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## EMPLOYEE DIRECTORY

### ORWELL VILLAGE HALL

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

**Administration (440) 437-6459 (440) 437-1055 fax**  
 Village Manager – Jack Nettis, Jr.  
 Clerk of Council/Finance Director/Tax Administrator – Ella Stanton  
 Zoning Inspector – Jack Nettis Jr.  
 Administrative Assistant- Linda Wyatt  
 Administrative Assistant – Brandy Orem

**Police Department (440) 437-1234**  
**Emergencies call 911**  
 Police Chief – Chad Fernandez

**Fire Department (440) 437-5875**  
**Emergencies call 911**  
 Fire Chief – Joe Albergo

**Water & Sewer Division (440) 437-8398**  
 Superintendent – Greg Hogue  
 Billing – Brandy Orem

**Street Department (440) 437-8398**  
 Superintendent – Mark Calabrese

### COUNCIL INFORMATION

**Council Members –**  
 President – Don Herbster (440) 437-6459  
 Dwight Johnson (440) 437-6459  
 Julie Mordosovich (440) 437-8331  
 John Rose (440) 437-8578  
 David McCombs (440) 293-6346

**Solicitor –**  
 David McCombs (440) 293-6346  
[Find us on Facebook](#)

- April**
- 5 EASTER**
- 14 Work Session 4:30 p.m. Village Hall**
- 16 Spaghetti Dinner 4:00 p.m. Am. Legion**
- 21 Council Meeting 4:30 p.m. Village Hall**
- May**
- 12 Work Session 4:30 p.m. Village Hall**
- 15 Spaghetti Dinner 4:00 p.m. Am. Legion**
- 16 Village Clean-up 8 a.m. – Noon Service Dept.**
- 19 Council Meeting 4:30 p.m. Village Hall**
- 25 Memorial Day Ceremonies**
- 30 Rotary/First Responders Charity Bicycle Ride 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.**
- June**
- 9 Work Session 4:30 p.m. Village Hall**
- 16 Council Meeting 4:30 p.m. Village Hall**
- 17 Concert in the Park 6:30 p.m. Chaffee Park**
- 19 Spaghetti Dinner 4:00 p.m. Am. Legion**
- 24 Concert in the Park 6:30 p.m. Chaffee Park**

- Summer Concert Series 2015 Marquee**
- June 17, 2015 ~ Castaways**
- June 21, 2015 ~ Larry, Larry, Daryl & Sheryl**
- July 1, 2015 ~ Great Geauga Fair Band**
- July 8, 2015 ~ LYRA**
- July 15, 2015 ~ Saving Grace**
- July 22, 2015 ~ The King Pins**
- July 29, 2015 ~ Fort Huntsburg Band**
- August 2, 2015 ~ Cook's Music Menu, Bill Cook**
- August 12, 2015 ~ Dale Bucar 4:30-6:30 followed by Chardon Polka Band 6:30-8:30**

## CODERed

**CODERed is an emergency notification system that the Village utilizes through the Ashtabula County Emergency Management Agency. Be sure all of your phones (even cell phones) are registered on the system to receive warnings, alerts and urgent communications.**

**To register go to:**  
<https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/DC4D9FD0FCCC>

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## **Preview of the State of the Village Jack J. Nettis, Jr., Village Manager**

We had a very good year in 2014. We renovated the water tower on Oak St., paved the police and fire department parking lots, and expanded the paved portion of the parking lots by the fire hall. We also paved approximately \$50,000 in sidewalks. As I've mentioned in past articles, we owe our thanks to the County for their efforts in supporting us for grants for these projects. Because of these grants, overall, our costs to the Village were less than 50% of the project costs. Within this next year, we will be able to start early on some projects. We will pave another \$20,000 in sidewalks and we are starting early with the planning for paving Park & Central and Penniman Roads.

Our Police and Fire Departments were able to get new vehicles. The police cruiser was absolutely necessary as our cars have been aging and their reliability is crucial. The Police officers deserve a note of commendation for having solved some significant cases lately. We have a first-class department with extremely capable, community-minded officers. Besides vehicles, another concern is the pay of these officers. They have had very low wages and, as a result, we have a fair turnover as they are lured to other departments. We are rectifying this somewhat each year; however, we will not be fully competitive with similar departments for a while.

The Fire Department received its Heavy Rescue truck. This greatly enhances their capabilities; especially at the scene of crashes, but also for fires and other emergencies. Recently, they were selected to participate in a Geauga-Ashtabula HAZMAT Response Team because of their experience and their equipment. We also took a historic step this past year as we staffed our Street Department with two firefighters (Chief Albergo and Capt. Gregory) during the day. This allows us to be sure to have an immediate response when there is a critical call during the day time. This was absolutely necessary as we hold ourselves responsible for very critical assets with the school, factories, residents and our contracted communities (Orwell Twp. and Colebrook Twp.).

The Water & Sewer Department completed the renovation of the water tower that I mentioned earlier. This was several years in the planning for both the renovation and financing. The greatest tribute to the department with regards to this project is that Kennametal, who is highly reliant upon the water from that tower, did not miss a single moment of production.

Finally, I have to give credit to the wonderful staff at Village Hall. Ella Stanton the Clerk of Council/Finance Director/Tax Administrator has over a year of experience and has been able to really tackle the job. Linda Wyatt, the Tax Clerk, assisted Ella by conducting a complete audit of past tax records. The Village is in much stronger shape today because of their efforts. **Please view the entire State of the Village on our website after March 17<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Village Finances Ella Stanton, Clerk of Council/Finance Director**

As of January 1, 2015, the Village had "carry-over" funds from 2014 of \$2,152,591.03. Of this amount, \$239,522 is within the General Fund and the remainder is within various restricted

accounts (such as water and sewer, and others). The estimated amount of revenue for 2015 as certified by the County Auditor is \$1,866,260.05. This gives us a total of \$4,038,815.63 with which to work as Mr. Nettis and Council prepare and approve the budget. In 2014 our total expenses were \$2,397,583.93.

We are in good shape financially. There should be adequate funds to complete the necessary projects while having funds in reserve just in case we have an emergency.

## **Water and Sewer Department Greg Hogue, Superintendent**

With the exceptionally cold winter, service lines from the street to your home have the potential to burst. Please mind your pipes as these are the Homeowners responsibility. Please contact the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS), at 8-1-1, or 1-800-362-2764 for repairs to these lines. **Call before you dig – It's the law.**

## **Police Department News Chad Fernandez, Police Chief**

The Ohio Attorney General has published a listing of scams affecting seniors (and others) in Ohio. Some of these include:

- Advanced Fee Loans: individuals are asked to pay an up-front fee for help in obtaining a loan.
- Credit Repair Scams: individuals are told they can have their credit scores repaired for a fee.
- Fake Check Scams: Someone offers to deposit a check in your account and they will pay you for, if only you will send them your account information.
- Foreclosure Rescue Scams: These target individuals having trouble paying their mortgages.
- Grandparent Scams: Grandparents are contacted by someone purporting to be their grandchild and needing money (often due to a legal issue).
- Home Improvement Fraud: Contractors will canvass an area and offer to do work, but require a cash down payment before work begins.
- Identity Theft: This occurs when criminals gain access to your personal identity and/or credit cards.
- Living Trust Scams: These scams usually target lower income consumers, whose limited estates likely would incur minimal probate costs, by using high-pressure sales tactics.
- Investment Fraud: Someone offers you a "risk-free" investment only to steal your money.
- Phony Charities: You receive a call or letter asking you to make a charitable donation from someone who is only pretending to represent a charity.
- Predatory Lending: Customers get into loans they cannot afford.
- Prizes/Sweepstakes Fraud: Someone may fictitiously claim that you have won the lottery, a contest or other prize. In order to collect your winnings, however, you'll be asked to pay a fee.
- Reverse Mortgage Abuse: Some unscrupulous salespeople might pressure you into taking out a reverse mortgage that has very high fees. Others tempt you to use money from the loan to buy annuities or investments that may not benefit you.

- Sale of Annuities: There are many different kinds of annuities. Buyers should clearly understand which type of annuity they are buying, how much money it will cost them.
- Work at Home and Business Opportunity Ploys: These scams use sales pitches claiming that you can make good money working from home or getting involved in a business opportunity. You will be urged to pay up-front for materials or start-up costs.

For further information on Common Scams you can check out the Ohio Attorney General's website on the subject at:

<http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Individuals-and-Families/Seniors/Elder-Fraud/Common-Scams>

**To report fraudulent activity contact the Attorney General's Help Center: 800-282-0515, Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.**

## **Orwell Volunteer Fire Department Joe Albergo, Chief**

This past winter we responded to many traffic accidents, it's expected with the icy, snowy roads. Our Heavy Rescue Truck has been very important in this response.

We also responded to numerous fire calls, many having to do with chimney fires. Carbon monoxide incidents have risen due to improperly vented portable heating systems. I mention this because these types of incidents can be avoided. My first recommendation is not to use kerosene heating system at all, but if you do, be sure to insure proper ventilation. Also be sure you have a CO2 detector – the few dollars these detectors cost can save your lives.

With spring approaching, many want to clean-up their yards and fields. It is very common to put together burn piles. My usual word of caution for this time of the year toward these open burn situations is they are frowned upon, and may even be illegal. Very often people start these fires believing since the ground is so moist, it is safe. However, the surface debris may be dried out enough to rapidly burn. A little wind can easily turn a controlled burn into a major fire. Thank you for your consideration of these safety points.

## **First Responders Auxiliary News By Julie Mordesovich, Chairperson**

The Polka Party, Valentine's Day Breakfast, and the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, has started this new year out on a Happy note.

The First Responders Auxiliary is planning an Ethnic Crock-Pot Cook-off and a Bake-Off both to be held at the Fire Hall on April 19 from 3-5 p.m. A trophy and cash prize goes to the winner of the People's Choice Winner. You can get registration forms at the Village Hall or download them from Facebook.

We will again have a Voting Day Bake Sale at the Fire Hall on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Remember to register and to vote. Your vote counts.

There will be a Memorial Day Breakfast before the parade on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Organize your group to participate in the parade.

With your support, our Fire Department is getting some new equipment. Technology is always changing and keeping our department up to date is important to saves lives. We want the equipment to do the job safely that we expect the firefighters to do.

Thank you for helping to make our department one of the best in Ashtabula County.

## **Street Department Mark Calabrese, Superintendent**

### ***WE SURVIVED THE WINTER OF 2015.***

The Street Dept. and all of us in Northeast Ohio survived one of the worst winters of all time. On February 20<sup>th</sup> Orwell saw a temperature of -27 degrees and Roaming Shores made national news with a record of -39 degrees.

I want to extend my appreciation to all of the residents and businesses for their patience as we tried our best to keep up with the snow and ice. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we were also hampered by extremely high salt prices (nearly triple the 2014 costs). The mix of cinders and salt saved us thousands of dollars and yet we were able to make it through the weather with minimal issues. **Thank you for your understanding.**

This spring we are already planning our projects for the 2015 construction season. As soon as the weather breaks, we'll be able to start with the sidewalks. Associated with the sidewalks, we are going to do work in the tree lawns along North Maple and along parts of E. Main St. to regrade this area and improve the drainage so that we can eliminate some of the standing water on our sidewalks. We also hope to dredge some of the creeks to improve the drainage throughout the Village. We had hoped to do so last year, but the weather, as you will recall, did not cooperate and we could not get our equipment off-road to do the work. Paving of Park & Central and Penniman Rd. are on our schedule as well.

**VILLAGE CLEAN-UP DAY**

**MAY 16, 8 AM – NOON**

## **Parks & Recreation Deborah Meyer, Board Chairperson**

We are planning our beautifying plan for the Village with flowers this spring. We can always use help, and since we are trying to improve the flowers this year to make a "statement" we can also use donations. If you would like to help us out with either physical or financial support contact the Village Hall.

## **Grand Valley Chamber of Commerce President, Bob Denihan**

The Chamber has been working on becoming even more available to the businesses of our Grand Valley community. One way of doing this is to have our meetings bi-monthly and to hold them at lunchtime at Country Neighbor. We will also have guest speakers for the meetings. Our first lunch meeting was in February and Annette Herbster of Herbster's Tax Service was our speaker and she provided some excellent information.

Watch for upcoming news on our Community Days, July 25 and 25<sup>th</sup>.