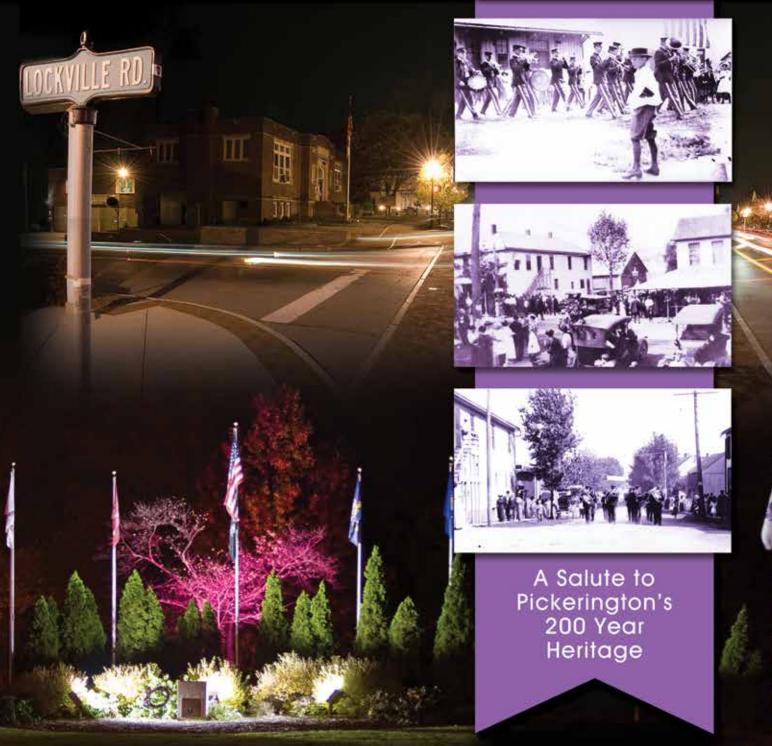


200 years





Pickerington's Official Bicentennial Commemorative Magazine



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# Welcome to the City of Pickerington's Bicentennial Celebration!

I am so honored to be the Mayor of Pickerington and especially during this historic moment for our City. The bicentennial executive committee has been working for the past two years to make this a celebration to remember and we hope you and your family will take part in the festivities.

Pickerington has certainly seen a lot of changes in 200 years: from a small town established by Abraham Pickering, to a growing village throughout the years and now to a thriving community that more than 19,000 people call home.

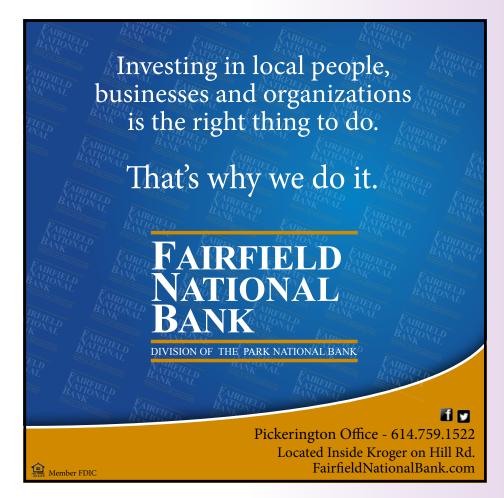
One of Pickerington's longest standing traditions is the Lions Club Labor Day Homecoming. When we started planning our bicentennial celebration we knew we wanted to partner with the Lions Club to make Labor Day 2015 an even bigger event and draw attention to this yearly tradition.

We hope you enjoy what we have planned – from attractions at the park to fireworks, food, live music and games. And don't forget the fried fish! We also hope you'll take the time to learn about Pickerington's rich history by spending time in Vintage Square and at the Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society and Museum.

2015 has already been an unforgettable year and the best is yet to come. We hope to see you September 5-7 at Victory Park for the biggest of our bicentennial celebration.



Mayor Lee A. Gray City of Pickerington



# Time Capsule Secrets Finally Revealed

On April 18, 1993, a time capsule was placed inside a concrete marker at Pickerington City Hall during the dedication of the newly constructed building. City leaders chose April 18, 2015 as the date for the time capsule to be opened, knowing that it would be the city's bicentennial year.

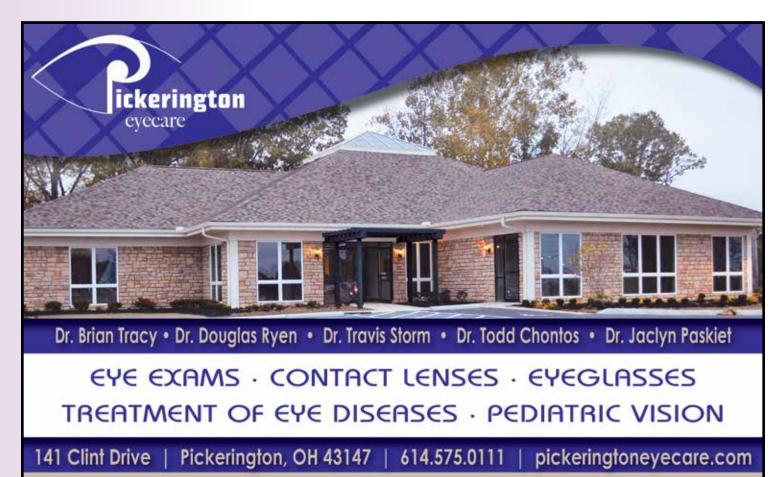
On April 18, Mayor Lee Gray opened the time capsule and revealed its contents to the hundreds





of people in attendance. Among the items inside: photos, newspapers, directories, maps, a copy of the codified ordinances and a coin collection. The time capsule's contents were on display inside City Hall for a month and will be on display again during Labor Day weekend.

Members of the bicentennial executive committee plan to add items to the existing time capsule and bury it later this year with a date of 2065 to be opened again.



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Thousands of people are expected to descend on Victory Park over the Labor Day weekend--the height of the year-long bicentennial celebration.

On Saturday, September 5, Victory Park will open at 2 pm. SuperGames will have attractions throughout the park – from ziplines and inflatables to laser tag and wall climbing. "We knew we wanted something a little different than the traditional amusements and we were familiar with SuperGames and liked the setup the company does every year at the Dublin Irish Festival," said Tammy Sawyer, a member of the bicentennial executive committee. "SuperGames offers something for all ages and we liked that."

Vintage Square will also be open Saturday on the plaza next to the Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society & Museum. Vintage Square will offer people a chance to step back in time and explore what life was like in 1815. The museum is extending its hours as well so visitors can go inside, look around and learn about Pickerington's rich history.

Live amateur boxing will take place Saturday from 6-9 pm in the park. Boxing and/or wrestling (depending upon who you talk to) is a part of Pickerington's history and so the committee looked for ways to bring that tradition back. These will be USA Boxing sanctioned fights from lightweight to heavyweight.

Carnival games are being hosted by the PTOs from several Pickerington schools and will be in the park throughout the weekend. More than 13 different

food vendors will have offerings for just about any taste. No doubt one of the most popular stops will be the Lions Club fried fish. It's a Labor Day tradition



in Pickerington and this year you'll have three days to get your fish instead of just one.

On Sunday, September 6, Victory Park will open at 2 pm and visitors can expect another day of attractions, food and games. Vintage Square will open again, as will the museum. But musical entertainment will be the focus of this day. Two

local bands will take the stage: at 5 pm Yesterday & Today will perform and then at 7 pm Reaganomics will entertain the crowd. The evening will be



capped off with a grand fireworks display to begin at 9 pm at Sycamore Park.

– continued on page 9







# Check out page 18 & 19

to see a layout of Victory Park and the full schedule of events for the Bicentennial Celebration on Labor Day Weekend.

To register for Pickerington's Bicentennial Parade, go to www.pickerington2015.com and click the Get Involved link to download the parade application.

#### **Executive Committee**

Lee A. Gray, Mayor

Cristie Hammond, City Council • Chris Schweitzer, City Council
Bill Vance, City Manager • Lynda Yartin, City Clerk
Rebecca Medinger, Parks and Recreation Director
Tammy Sawyer, Mayor's Executive Assistant
Brian Fox, Pickerington Lions Club
Gary Taylor, Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society
Heather Moore, City Manager's Executive Assistant
Colleen Bauman, Pickerington Public Library

Georgia Achtermann, Violet Township Women's League

**Becky Hornberger**, Pickerington Education Foundation

#### **Subcommittees**

#### **Entertainment**

Tammy Sawyer, chair tsawyer@pickerington.net

#### Parade

Cherie Koch and Colleen Bauman, co-chairs skochmachine 3244@gmail.com colleen cbauman@gmail.com

#### Food

Lee Gray & Cristie Hammond, co-chairs mayor@pickerington.net chammond@pickerington.net

#### Facilities/Grounds/Logistics

Rebecca Medinger, chair rmedinger@pickerington.net

#### **Marketing & Promotions**

Chris Schweitzer, chair cschweitzer@pickerington.net

#### **Volunteer Coordinator/Finances**

Lynda Yartin, chair lyartin@pickerington.net



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The last day of the celebration will be Monday, September 7. The annual Labor Day parade will step off from Pickerington High School Central at 10 am, but having it combined with the bicentennial means it will be one of the biggest parades Pickerington has seen in recent years. There will be the usual participants and also the addition of six 28-foot floats. Sponsors are paying to bring the themed floats here from northern Ohio. "We wanted to bring back big floats. If you look at the pictures from past parades there were always such elaborately decorated floats going down Pickerington's streets. So we found a company that does all of the floats for the NFL Hall of Fame Parade and we've been working with them for over a year," Sawyer said.

When the parade ends, people will be able to enjoy a third day of attractions, food and games at Victory Park. Local church bands will help provide the musical entertainment on Monday. "Nearly

25 churches call Pickerington home and there are a lot of talented performers in those churches so we wanted to provide them a place to showcase that. The first brick church was built in 1833 on lot #9 of Abraham Pickering's original plat and churches continue to play a large role in our community today," said Mayor Lee Gray. The Pickerington Community Chorus will close out the day's entertainment when it takes the stage at 4 pm

The three-day bicentennial party will come to an end at 6 pm Monday and the hopes of Mayor Gray and the planning committee are that people will have learned more about the city's history, feel a deeper connection to their community and will have made memories to last a lifetime.















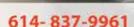
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We would like to dedicate our story to my father, Gene Kessler, a Marine Veteran of the Vietnam War and my late mother, Nan Kessler, our Angel. We love you.

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# Our Bicentennial Year in Review





#### **Kickoff Party:**

A year's worth of bicentennial celebration started in January 2015 with a fancy premiere kickoff event at the Pickerington Senior Center. At the

evening affair, sponsors were announced and the Bicentennial Court was crowned.

**Bicentennial Way:** A few days after the Kickoff Party, Lockville Road was rededicated as Bicentennial Way.

**Time Capsule Opened:** In April, hundreds of people descended on City Hall to discover the contents of the city's time capsule and participate in the City's annual Arbor Day event.

**Tea Party:** The month of May saw the Bicentennial Tea Party, hosted by the Pickerington-

Violet Township Historical Society, where big hats and big fun were the theme of the afternoon.



19, Bicentennial Pool Day took

place at the Pickerington Community Pool where admission was just \$2.00 per person in celebration of the City's 200 years. Those in attendance enjoyed music, food, giveaways and a free photo booth.

# **KW** GREATER COLUMBUS

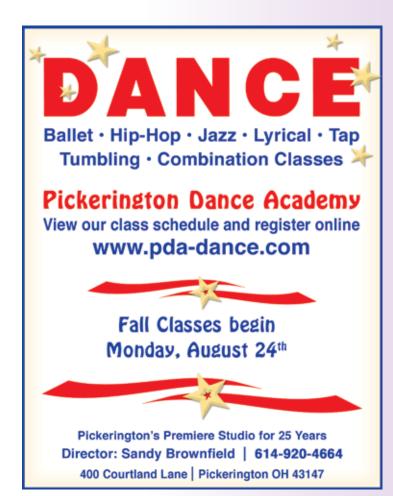
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# Former Mayors Honored

# as Parade Grand Marshals

The eleven living former mayors of Pickerington will serve as the grand marshals of the 2015 Bicentennial Parade on Labor Day, September 7.

The mayors' were chosen for the honor by the bicentennial executive committee as a way of recognizing their years of service to the City.

Many of Pickerington's former mayors still call the City home and remain active in the community. Mayor Lee Gray is a former mayor, but also the current mayor. He had previously held the office from 1992-99 and then returned again in 2012. Rita Ricketts (1988-91) is the only woman to ever hold the job. The oldest former mayor is Dale Huntwork, who held the position from 1972-75. Dr. Paul McMullen (1976-77) is traveling the farthest to be a part of the bicentennial celebration as he now resides in Leesburg, Florida. Other former mayors include: Garvan Smith (1977-79), Robert Thomas (1980-83), Thomas Burkhardt (1984-87), Randall Hughes (2000-02), Louis Postage (2003), David Shaver (2004-07) and Mitch O'Brien (2008-11).

All of Pickerington's former mayors have been invited to participate in bicentennial events throughout the year and received special recognition during a reception at City Hall. They are also the honorees at the 2015 Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society Founders Day Banquet.





Mayor Lee Gray hosted former mayors at a City Hall reception earlier this year. Pictured standing (L to R): Tom Burkhardt (1984-87), Mayor Gray, Randy Hughes (2000-02), Seated are Dale Huntwork (1972-75), Rita Ricketts (1988-91) and Tom Brubaker (1971).



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# Pickerington Mourns the Loss of a Man Dedicated to Community Service by Brian Fox



On June 16, Pickerington lost a man who was truly dedicated to serving others.

Tom Brubaker, who passed away at the age of 86, was a resident of Pickerington for 82 years.

During that time he served his fellow residents as a volunteer firefighter for

35 years and as a police photographer well into retirement. He was a member of village council and served as Mayor in 1971. Additionally, he served for years on the Pickerington Senior Center's Board of Directors.

Tom was also a 60-year member of the Pickerington Lions Club, having joined in January 1955. As a Lion, Tom was part of many community improvement projects over the years, including the construction of the Victory Park Shelter House in the 1950s and the house-numbering project in 1963. He was a familiar presence for decades down at Victory Park during the Lions Annual Labor Day Fish Fry.

Tom Brubaker had served as Grand Marshal of both the Fourth of July Parade and the



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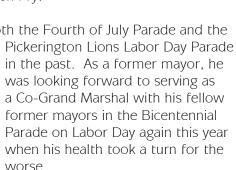
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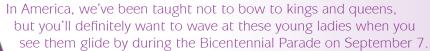


Tom Brubaker exemplified the ideals of community service. *Pickerington is a better place because he lived here.* 



to find out about some of the interesting people that have been residents of Pickerington!





The Bicentennial Court was announced on January 9. To be eligible, girls need to live in the Pickerington Local School District, be a junior or senior in high school and submit an application and essay. Twelve candidates were chosen to be interviewed by a committee and the final court was chosen from there.

Rachael Beller, Pickerington's Bicentennial Queen, is a senior at Pickerington Central and is the daughter of Rob and Angel Beller.

The two Bicentennial Princesses are Alison Ross (left) and Hitomi Iwasaki (right). Alison is a senior at Pickerington Central and is the daughter of Jeff and Nancy Ross. Hitomi is a senior at Pickerington North and is the daughter of Thomas and Cynthia Iwasaki.



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# Bicentennial Founders' Day Banquet

Thursday, September 3, 2015 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Pickerington Senior Center – 150 Hereford Drive

The evening will feature dinner, live music, and a celebration of Pickerington's 1815 founding as well as the men and woman who served as Pickerington Mayors during the past 200 years.

Tickets are \$15 per person (check or cash) and available through August 31st from members of the Historical Society:

- At the Historical Museum located at 15 E Columbus Street, Saturdays in August from 10am 1pm
- By mail to PO Box 732, Pickerington, Ohio 43147. Mail order tickets will be held at "Will Call" for pick up at the Senior Center after 6pm on the evening of the event
- Seating is limited. No tickets sold after August 31st. Direct any questions to Peggy Portier at (614) 382-5989 or pickhistsociety@hotmail.com





# New Location Opening Fall 2015

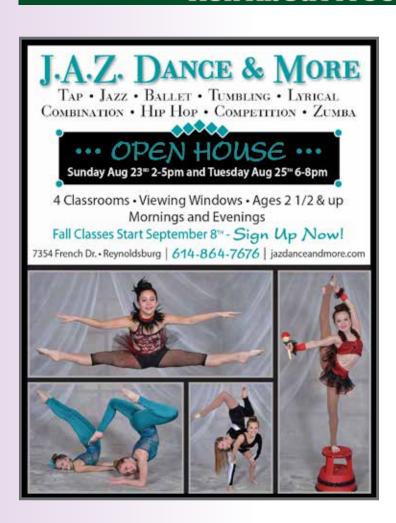
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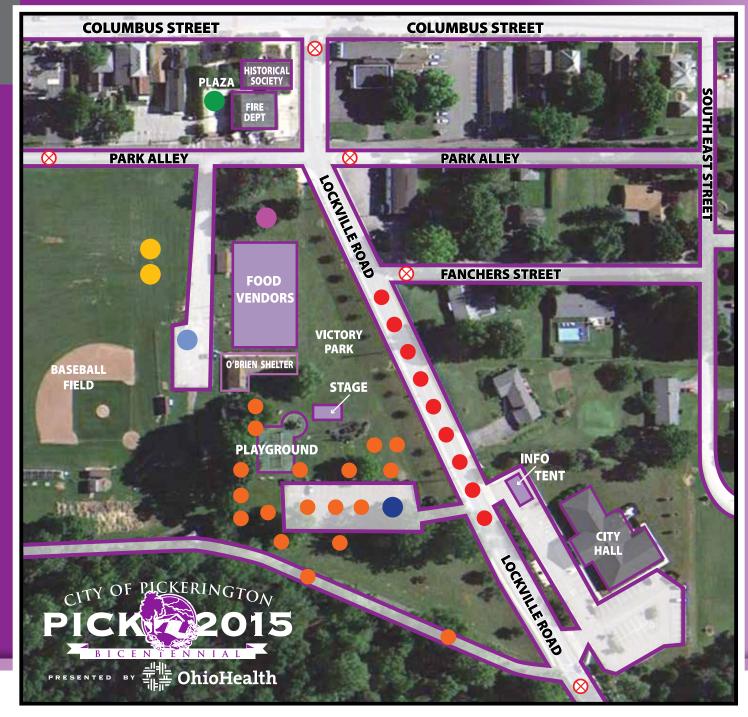


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#### **Saturday. Sentember 5**

2:00pm Victory Park Opens (Attractions, Food, Games)
2:00-6:00pm Vintage Square Open
2:00-4:00pm One More Time String Band (Vintage Square)

2:00 - 6:00pm Historical Society Museum Open 4:00 - 7:00pm Meet Abraham Pickering 5:00pm Opening Ceremonies (Stage)

6:00 - 9:00pm Boxing

10:00pm Victory Park Closes

#### **Sunday, September 6**

2:00pm Victory Park Opens (Attractions, Food, Games) 2:00-6:00pm Vintage Square Open

2:00 - 6:00pm Historical Society Museum Open 5:00pm Yesterday & Today (Stage) 7:00pm Reaganomics (Stage)

9:00pm Fireworks

10:00pm Victory Park Closes

#### **Monday. September 7**

10:00am Victory Park Opens; Bicentennial Parade 9:00am-1:00pm Historical Society Museum Open 11:00am-2:00pm Meet Abraham Pickering

1.00am-2.00pm Weet Abraham Florening

11:30am Labor Day Opening Ceremonies (Stage)

11:45am School Bands (Lockville Road)
12:30pm Grace Fellowship (Stage)
1:30pm Destiny Ministries (Stage)
2:15pm C3 Church (Stage)

4:00pm Pickerington Community Chorus (Stage)

6:00pm Victory Park Closes

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As part of this overall vision, Mount Carmel is launching exciting projects at Mount Carmel East, Mount Carmel West and on Mount Carmel's Grove City campus that will transform these facilities to meet the changing healthcare needs of the communities we serve.

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- Welcoming main entrance and lobby
- New chapel, peaceful respite areas and park-like outdoor spaces
- · Renovated and expanded kitchen and bistro-style dining
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# Connecting our Past to the Present Pickerington: 1815 – 2015

A timeline of Pickerington's first 200 years presented by members of the Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society and City of Pickerington staff

Abraham Pickering was born in Virginia four days after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. At the age of 22, he married Anna Looker. They immigrated to Fairfield County, Ohio in 1806 along with their three young children: Elizabeth, James, and Mary – ranging in age from 6 to 2.

1815: Creating "Jackson Ville" by Gary Taylor

Additional members of both the Looker and Pickering families also moved to Fairfield County around this same time.

The Abraham Pickering family built the first two-room log cabin known in this locality in what is now Sycamore Creek Park. Five more children were born to Abraham and Anna in Ohio, but only four of their eight children reached adulthood

Abraham Pickering wanted to establish a town, so he acquired a quarter section of land (80 acres) from his father-in-law, James Looker.

On September 15, 1815 Pickering filed a plat at the Fairfield County Courthouse in Lancaster for a town he named "Jackson Ville" which contained 64 lots. Pickering chose that name because General Andrew Jackson had just defeated the British at the Battle of New Orleans which ended the War of 1812. The 1820 census taker counted 49 people in Jackson Ville. In 1827, residents wanted to honor their town's founder, so they petitioned the state legislature to rename the town "Pickerington".

Abraham Pickering died June 23, 1833. His wife, Anna Looker Pickering, passed away in 1840. Both are buried in Pickerington's Dovel Memorial Cemetery.

The Pickerington Mill was built on Lots 1-2 and the Creamery on lots 4-5 on today's Church Street. The now-vacant Lot 33 features a gazebo and serves as a neighborhood park at Center/West Columbus streets.

The Pickering Homestead was located in what is now Sycamore Creek Park. The family's log cabin can be seen at the left side of this 1980 photo when the building served as the Village of Pickerington's municipal offices. The cabin was covered with siding during 1910 and 1977 remodelings. The termite-infested building was condemned by Pickerington City Council in 1992 and demolished. The structure stood between the pond and Bicentennial Barn on which summertime "Friday Nite Flicks" are now shown in Sycamore Creek Park. Today's Pickerington City Hall, built at 100 Lockville Road, was completed in September 1992.





1880: The Impact of a Railroad by Maggie Arendt

As late as 1865, Pickerington had only 150 residents and 37 buildings. All of this changed when the Toledo & Ohio Central

The Pickerington Depot on High Street (now Center Street) was constructed in 1879 while the railroad was being built. The Flour Mill on Mill Street (now Church Street), seen at right, was part of the building boom that followed the trains when they arrived in Pickerington in 1880. The Depot served as area residents' social center and connection to the outside world until 1958 when railway passenger service and the Depot were abandoned. In 2015 coal, dry goods, and chemicals are shipped via Pickerington's railway. The restored Depot now is home to Concord Mortgage.

Railroad rolled through Pickerington in 1880. The train depot housed a Western Union operation and served as both a passenger and freight station -- bringing mail, newspapers, fresh bread, mail order goods and more.

The railroad also brought farm-related industry to the tiny town and spur tracks to accommodate a newly constructed tile mill, flour mill, stockyard, lumber yard, and a hoop mill. The farming community finally had a quick, easy, and affordable method of shipping their corn, hogs, cattle, poultry, flour, and dairy products to distant markets.

The railroad and expanded job market brought more people, boarding houses, taverns, grocery stores, meat markets, a new school, and churches to Pickerington. Specialty shops flourished including Jesse Hager's shoe

shop, Adolph Schultz's watch and jewelry store, and S.S. Good's Harness Shop.

In 1881, the town fathers incorporated Pickerington as a "Village". The first ordinance passed provided for the levying of taxes. Early mayors included John F. Bauer, J. C. Belt (who owned the flour mill), William F. Ziegler, Jesse Hager (tavern and shoe shop owner), and W. E. Fenstermaker (owner of the tile mill).

- continued on page 26



Peace United Methodist Church members built this new church in 1883 on Lot 9 located on the northwest corner of what is now Church and Cross Streets. It replaced their original 1833 church -- which was Pickerington's first brick church -- on land parishioners purchased from Abraham Pickering for \$2.00.

James "Daddy" Belt owned the Pickerington Flour Mill from 1896 until he sold it to the Wooley family in 1906. The Mill turned area farmers' wheat into "Violet Queen" flour. Belt lived across from the Mill on Church Street and served as one of Pickerington's earliest mayors.





1907: Higher Education for Pickerington Children by Peggy Portier **"Opening Day"** in the fall of 1907 of the brand new Violet Township High School attracted more students than the community expected. Horse-drawn school wagons brought many from outlying areas previously served by one-room schools. This building on East Street in Pickerington was the second schoolhouse "on the hill" but the first school in Violet Township to offer a high school education. Consolidation of all one-room schools took until 1922. This original six-room structure, built for \$15,000, now houses the PLSD offices. Building additions provide classrooms for Heritage Elementary.

Education has been an important part of Pickerington since its inception when Abraham Pickering set aside a lot for educational purposes in his newly platted town. Students in Pickerington originally attended class in a log cabin, but only an eighth grade education was offered. Students wishing to attend high school went to either Reynoldsburg or Carroll High School. A third option was the Pleasantville Academy, a boarding school of sorts. A horse-drawn wagon would pick up students in the center of Pickerington on Sunday evening, take them to Pleasantville for the week where they stayed in a rented house, and then return them home on Friday night.

The opening of a new school building on East Street in 1907 brought the first high school to Pickerington. The first graduation took place in 1909 with four students who all went on to higher education. The Pickerington

Local School District now boasts 14 buildings and consistently achieves high state test scores and graduation rates. The district graduated 782 students in 2015 from two high schools and a community school for at-risk students.

School activities have expanded along with the student population. Today there are 15 different sports offered to the 10,585 students in the district. At one time, basketball was "the" sport played by both boys and girls; Pickerington didn't play its first official football season until 1965. Instrumental music came to Pickerington schools in 1937, a few years after the community's Independent Order of Odd Fellows' band ceased to exist. Band and orchestra students now travel regularly to other states, and even foreign countries, to perform.

For 15 years, beginning in 1985, the Pickerington Girls Basketball team dominated their sport with six state championship wins and two runner-up wins. They were often recognized in national rankings. Shown here are the 1999 Lady Tigers (27-1) who were named the National High School Girls Basketball Champions by USA Today.



1909 – First High School Graduating Class.

Standing: Amy Lyons and Rue Fishbaugh.

Sitting:

P.C. Milnor and Guy Fishbaugh.



#### 1968: A Freeway Comes to Picktown by Maggie Arendt

When visitors exited I-70 at the new State Route 256

interchange serving Pickerington in 1968, they were greeted by a large dip in the two-lane highway and a sea of cornfields along the 4-mile route to the village limits.

Pickerington's 1970 population was 676 when village officials streamlined its government, passed a zoning code, and annexed more than 2,000 acres of residential property. This enabled the village to construct sewer lines and a new sewer plant on Hill Road, expand its water system and police force, and – in 1977 – enact a one percent village income tax.

In the mid-1970s, Pickerington Mayor Dale Huntwork and the village council saw the need to protect Pickerington by curtailing further expansion of Columbus eastward and Reynoldsburg south of I-70 into Violet Township. Pickerington annexed approximately 500 acres within a narrow strip of land along both sides of SR 256 from its village limits near Pickerington Run to I-70.

Commercial development then began to arrive in Pickerington along SR 256, starting with a Kroger supermarket in 1975 and the relocation of RG Barry's corporate headquarters to Yarmouth Road in 1976.

By the end of that decade, Pickerington had grown to 3,851 residents. Commercial development continued through the 1980s with fast-food giant McDonald's, Brookview Village Shopping Center, a Big Bear supermarket, medical and legal offices, as well as a new post office on Hill Road in 1988.

– continued on page 29



The Pickerington Creamery closed its doors in 1989 but now houses Romeo's Pizza. Located at 80 W. Church Street, the Creamery was rebuilt after fires in 1921 and 1977. During its prime in the mid-20th century, it was Pickerington's largest employer and Ohio's largest buttermaker with an annual production of 10 million pounds of its "Mayflower" and other brands of butter.



#### 1966 View of I-70 and SR 256 Interchange

On a Sunday afternoon in mid-1966, then Fire Chief Carlton Good and four or five fire department members were discussing the I-70 freeway under construction in northern Violet Township.

"Come on guys, let's go take a look at this new road," said Chief Good. With Good at the wheel of the "bread box" squad vehicle, we drove north onto an unfinished route 256 and I-70 bridge.

Looking west and south from the elevated freeway, Good said: "Think how much easier it soon will be for our squad to transport township residents to Grant Hospital. Probably some day, a hospital will be built on the east side of Columbus -- closer to Pickerington than Grant Hospital."

Little did those of us present with Chief Good that day really grasp his vision of future east side development and traveling I-70 and I-270 to quickly access the entire Columbus metro area.

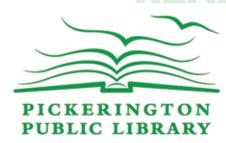
– Gary Taylor Former Volunteer Firefighter and Longtime Pickerington Historian

In 1989, an area landmark – the "Dovel Home" on Graceland Farms, one of five brick homes built by Jacob Dovel for his children -- was replaced by Pickerington's first fast-food restaurant, McDonald's, at the southwest corner of Hill and Refugee roads. Additional commercial businesses at this

intersection quickly followed.



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Congrafulations Pickerington on 200 years of Making History!

Thanks for supporting the Historical Parks www.historicalparks.org 1991:
Our Village
Becomes a City

by Maggie Arendt

As expected, the 1990 census revealed Pickerington's population exceeded 5,000 residents, the necessary number to move from village to city status. Pickerington officially was designated a city during a ceremony on April 20, 1991, 110 years after its incorporation as a village.

At this time, many of Pickerington's corn and soybean fields along SR 256 were being replaced by commercial development.

The city's new activity center was Pickerington Square at the southeast corner of Refugee and Hill Roads. There, residents could apply for a loan at the new Huntington Bank, shop for groceries at Kroger, buy a Hallmark card, cure a headache at SuperXDrugs, and pick up a pizza at Cardo's.

Also in 1991, Winderly Lane was constructed just south of I-70 at routes 256 and 204. It hosted a Cracker Barrel and, eventually, other eateries and a hotel.

By the end of the 1990 decade, Marcus Cinema was showing movies in Pickerington, while the American Motorcycle Association and its Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum brought out-of-town guests to its new headquarters on Yarmouth Road.

New subdivisions and houses continued to be created during the 1990s, fulfilling the demand of people wanting to relocate to Pickerington.

To accommodate increased population, two high schools were constructed during this period of time. The first, built in 1991 on Opportunity Way, was renamed Pickerington High School Central when the second, Pickerington High School North, opened in 2003 on Refugee Road in Violet Township.

By the year 2000, nearly 10,000 people lived in Pickerington according to that year's census. To handle the increased population, a new fire station and a police station were constructed on Refugee Road. Also, Pickerington's first major retailing operation, Kohl's Department Store, opened on SR 256 in 2003.

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In 1998 a historical landmark, the Mayflower Barn, was destroyed by fire. This paved the way for the creation of Hunter's Run, a shopping center featuring Barnes & Noble and Marcus Theatres, along with a variety of restaurants and shops at the intersection of routes 256/204.



On December 12, 2002, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to celebrate Pickerington's first building constructed to specifically house its Police Department, located on Refugee Road.



# 2015: From Bedrooms to Big Business

by Joe Henderson

Pickerington's population doubled during the past 15 years. In 2015, an estimated 19,316 people reside within the Pickerington city limits. According to 2013 U.S. Census estimates, Pickerington residents enjoy a median household income of \$81,540, putting the city near the top in Central Ohio.

There are approximately 619 businesses and 5,008 single family residences within the 9.58 square miles that now encompass the city limits. Pickerington currently contains six public schools, with another eight PLSD schools just outside the city limits in Violet Township. Approximately 16 churches call Pickerington their home.

To enhance recreational opportunities for city residents, miles of bikeways, a disc golf course, and a community swimming pool were added during the past few years to Pickerington's seven community parks and the city of Columbus-owned Turnberry Golf Course.

Great advancements in transportation were made in 2010 when Diley Road was reconfigured and widened to five lanes. Currently underway is an \$8.1 million Ohio Department of Transportation project to revamp State Route 256 with additional lanes, new pavement, raised medians, traffic signal upgrades, and sidewalks.

More than 97 new businesses obtained building permits during the past three years. Many of these include food and beverage establishments such as Roosters, Starbucks, Raising Canes, Scrambler Marie's, Gratzi Pizzeria, and Tom+Chee.

Pickerington also is home to a growing number of professional office companies such as RG Barry and Volunteer Energy. A new business that opened June of 2015 is the OhioHealth Pickerington Medical Campus on Refugee Road. The \$43 million, 144,000 square-foot complex will lead the way in what is expected to be the next major growth sector in Pickerington.

Residential, commercial and office growth are all on a steady upward growth pattern in the city of Pickerington. The outlook for all three sectors to access success is on the rise in our community.

The new Hunter's Ridge Shopping Center at the southeast corner of State Routes 256 and 204. It is directly behind Pisgah Cemetery whose burials include some of Pickerington's earliest settlers. Hunter's Run Shopping Center can be seen farther to the southeast.



This 2014 aerial view of Olde Pickerington Village (looking west) captures the growth and changes made in the 200 years since Abraham Pickering filed his original 64-lot plat on September 15, 1815.



New OhioHealth Pickerington Medical Campus that opened the summer of 2015 on Refugee Road, just west of State Route 256.



# Who's Who of Pickerington

# What follows are short stories of noted citizens who called Pickerington home at one time or another.

**Eura Tussing – Man of Music:** Born in Pickerington in 1871, Eura Tussing spent his life in the Pickerington Area. He was deeply involved in the musical part of this community for most of the first half of the 20th century.

Tussing was a pupil of the noted opera tenor Cicil Fanning, and he attended Capitol School of Oratory and Music on Neil Avenue in Columbus, Ohio.

As a composer, he wrote many church anthems, the most noted being "The Star of Bethlehem." Several were published by the Lorenz Publishing company of Dayton, Ohio, in their monthly magazine entitled "The Volunteer Choir" which was used by many churches.

Mr. Tussing was the director of a 35-member male chorus, popular between 1900 and 1910. On Labor Day of 1912, he directed a 70-voice choir in the introductory presentation of his oratorio, "Emanuel."

He directed many musical organizations including the Pickerington Male Chorus and the Methodist Church Choir. He was a member of the I.O.O.F. band. For several years, he was a music teacher in the Pickerington Public Schools where he taught voice.

Outside of music, Mr. Tussing was an active charter member of the Pickerington Lions Club. He passed away in 1953.

**Arthur Robinson – US Senator:** Pickerington is the birthplace (March 12, 1881) of Arthur Robinson, United States Senator from the state of Indiana. On October 22, 1925, he was appointed to fill out a term of a senator who had died. He later was elected to a term of his own. His birthplace was located at what is now 42-48 West Columbus Street.

After attending the common schools in Pickerington, young Robinson further pursued his education by enrolling at Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio. He graduated from Indiana Law School in 1910 and called Indianapolis his home for the rest of his life.



#### Earl Lonzo Moore - Professional Baseball

**Player:** This Pickerington native was born on July 29, 1878, one of 14 children born to Reason G. and Martha Claybaugh Moore.

Earl was discovered by a scout for the Cleveland Indians when he was pitching for a semi-pro baseball team at Bushnel Park (Broad Street & Drexel Ave) in Columbus. Moore pitched for the Indians from 1901-07, for the Philadelphia Nationals from 1908-13 and for the Buffalo Federals in 1914. During his career, he had a record of 160 wins to 153 losses. He carried a lifetime .142 batting average.



In later life, he and his wife Blanche, a retired Cleveland teacher, returned to Pickerington where they spent their retirement years. Earl passed away in 1961.

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#### James Jeffries - Professional Prize Fighter:

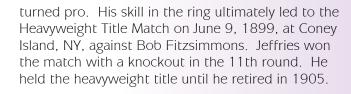
Born in the Lockville area of Violet Township in 1872. James was

one of seven children born to Mr. & Mrs. Electus Jeffries. He is recognized for his achievements and skill that ultimately earned him the heavyweight prizefighting title.

When Jim was eight years old, his family left Violet Township and settled south of Los

Angeles, California, where he eventually got a job in a boiler factory. In his later boxing years, he was known as "Boilermaker Jim."

As a powerfully built and athletic teenager, Jim fought as an amateur until the age of 20, when he



In 1908, he came out of retirement to fight in another heavyweight championship bout against Jack Johnson. After 15 rounds, the referee stopped the fight and awarded a technical knockout to Johnson.

In his retirement, Jeffries trained boxers and worked as a fight promoter. He became wealthy over the years and contributed freely to many charities and welfare programs. Jim married an actress and with his family made several visits to his native Fairfield County relatives and friends. He passed away in Burbank, California, in 1953.



David Johnston –
American Patriot: David
Allen Johnston was born in
1949 and graduated from
Pickerington High School.
In 1968 and 1969, David
served his country as a marine
in Vietnam. He was killed
in action during Operation
Taylor Common on March
3, 1969 in Quang Nam
Province. As a result of his
actions during this operation,

Corporal Johnston was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star with Combat "V" for valorous action

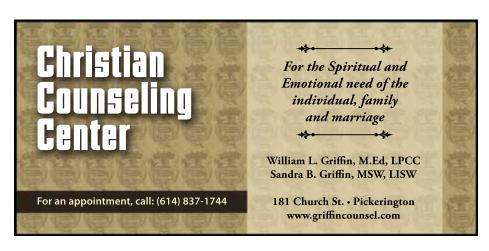
performed during direct combat with the enemy. To honor Pickerington High School's only Vietnam War death, the membership of Pickerington's American Legion Post #283 decided to name their post after Johnston.

Dustin A. Derga – American Patriot: Born in 1980, Dustin graduated from Pickerington High School in 1999. He was a volunteer for the Basil Fire Department and a member of the United Steel Workers

Union. He was killed in action on May 8, 2005, while participating in combat



operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom as a member of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment.





John Neuman Hizey – Concert Violinist: World renowned concert violinist John Neuman Hizey was born in Pickerington in 1876. He was described as "an American artist of unusually brilliant attainments and profound musicianship." He went abroad in 1897 and spent five years in Germany

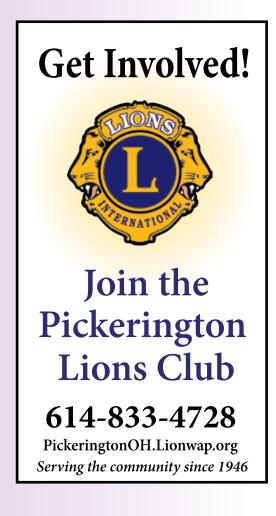
studying violin and other

musical subjects. He was a member of the famous Gerwandhaus Orchestra, and played for Kaiser Wilhelm among other European royalty.

He returned to the U.S. and spent a number of years teaching stringed instruments at the Ohio University School of Music in Athens. He was a violin teacher at OU from 1903 to 1924 and led the University's orchestra from 1916 to 1924.

He returned to Pickerington in 1924 where he operated a fruit farm on State Route 204. He passed away in 1951 and is buried at Violet Cemetery. His wife Frances was a piano teacher and long-time organist for Peace United Methodist Church.







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Top photo: City Hall

Middle: Mayor Lee Gray with Girl Scouts at the city's Mitten Tree

Bottom: Sycamore Creek Covered Bridge