

The Year in Review

Our Huber Ridge Area Association—in its second full year of operation—has continued to undertake projects to improve the community and has broken many of its previous records. Here is what we did:

- ▶ The Huber Ridge Area Association under the leadership of President James Welch and with the support of the community opposed the Ohio American Water Company's last rate increase request. The results were a reduction by more than half of the rate increase requested, new winter/summer rates, and serious efforts to eliminate "red water" coming from our taps. It is important to note that the Ohio American Water Company has requested a NEW rate increase; details can be found in the flyer enclosed in this newsletter!
- ▶ The First Annual Block Watch Training Session was held on January 30. Led by Blendon Police Sgt. Branch Wayt, 20 residents learned how to make our community safer.
- ▶ The HRAA promoted the Ridgewood Park Cleanup on April 28 where some 65 neighbors (up from 49 the previous year) painted, mulched, weeded, and cleared trails. Junior Girl Scout Troop 1870 and Boy Scout Troop 560 participated in this project with residents of the Ridge. Tom Burke repainted two of our entrance signs.
- ▶ The Second Annual Spring Slip and Seed Swap took place on May 12 when residents not only exchanged plants but also had a chance to perk up the park with plantings.
- ▶ HRAA Vice President Brian McMahon was in charge of our Community Garage Sale on July 7 with promotional assistance from Barbara Crawford of **Century 21, Joe Walker & Associates**. There were 62 registered participants (up from 49 the previous year) in this sale—another way to spruce up our community.
- ▶ The HRAA encouraged participation in National Night Out on August 7 to increase crime and drug prevention awareness.
- ▶ The First Annual Labor Day Parade was initiated on September 3 as children and adults (with or without dogs) moved from Huber Ridge Elementary School to Ridgewood Park on bikes, trikes, wagons, and even a skateboard.
- ▶ On October 16, the HRAA hosted a question-and-answer session at Faith Covenant Church to allow residents to hear the candidates for the Blendon Township leadership positions.
- ▶ On October 27, residents enjoyed the HRAA sponsored Halloween Haunted Park Costume Party in Ridgewood Park under the direction of Carolyn Cordray. Entertainment included Trick or Treat Street, the Costume Contest, and the Haunted Woods with plenty of refreshments and prizes.
- ▶ In spite of the rain, the third HRAA Clothing Drive yielded a truckload of clothing to be donated to A.W.A.R.E. for the benefit of local folks in need.
- ▶ T-shirts with the HRAA logo on them were made available for sale this year in sizes ranging from M to XXL. The reasonable price of just \$10 allows residents to display their community spirit.
- ▶ The HRAA's website, www.huberridge.org, brought a record number of hits (9,140) in October and continues to be a Neighborhood Link Gold Star Award winner.



The Huber Ridge Area Association plans to make 2008 an even more exciting and productive year for our community, but ... YOUR help is needed to do so. What can YOU do? Pay your \$15 annual dues. Sign up to help with one or more of the community projects. Write a letter or carry a petition to oppose the new Ohio American Water Company rate increase request. Attend one or more of the monthly meetings. Serve on the HRAA Executive Committee as an officer or a coordinator.

If you value the accomplishments of the HRAA and feel that they should be continued, start by completing the membership application on the back of this newsletter. Mail it with your check for \$15 to the Treasurer or bring it to our January 3 meeting. WHAT WE DO NEXT IS UP TO YOU!

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor

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Faith Covenant Church Youth Ministries

All of our youth gather the first Sunday of every month to honor God **NOW! NIGHT OF WORSHIP**

FLASHPOINT
Flashpoint, our Junior High ministry, meets every Wednesday from 6:30 to 9:00 pm

THE JOURNEY
Senior High ministry meets Sundays at 6:30 to 9:00 pm

THE PATH
Senior High gathers Sunday mornings at 9:30 am to walk along the Path together as a small group

CONFIRMATION
Confirmation means to "make sure". Our two year Confirmation program allows our 7th and 8th graders to make sure of their faith as we guide them through a two year study of the Old and New Testaments.

Faith Covenant Church
3607 Dempsey Rd
Westerville, OH 43081
P: 614-865-0791
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Winter 2008

Because You Asked, We Asked This is what the experts said about blocked sidewalks, driveways, and extensions:

Sidewalk Questions: What can be done about cars blocking sidewalks? What is protocol for the police responding to a blocked sidewalk complaint? What is the penalty for blocking a sidewalk?

Answers: Sgt. Branch Wayt wrote:

Blocking the sidewalks with a vehicle is prohibited by Ohio Revised Code Section 4511.68(1). [It is] a minor misdemeanor with a maximum fine of \$150. This can be enhanced with stiffer penalties if prior convictions for the same infraction [occur] within 12 months.

Currently, if a violator is cited and the ticket is just paid through the Franklin County Clerk of Courts, the levied fine amount is \$96.

As a "general practice," the Blendon Township Police Department does not drive around looking for violators [to] issue citations/warnings. If we did, that is all we would get accomplished. However, from time to time, we do receive complaints on a particular vehicle/locations. We stop to chat with the owner; we try to discuss the complaint and work out an agreeable resolution [for] all involved. Issuing citations is a last resort and generally not needed.

Responses: As good neighbors, we should accommodate and be considerate of our neighbors who need and want to use the sidewalks (rather than the street or lawn areas) by keeping all vehicles off the sidewalks. We should also keep toys and bikes off the sidewalks. If someone violates code on a consistent basis, then we should call our police (889-9494) to report the concern. You can be confident that our police will handle the matter professionally.

Driveway Questions: What surfaces are permitted for driveways and driveway extensions? How quickly does a driveway extension need to be properly surfaced? Is it necessary to get a permit for a driveway extension?

Answers: According to Joe Bailey, Franklin County Economic Development and Planning:

Currently, a permit is not necessary for a driveway extension; but one is required for a curb cut. Regarding driveway surfaces, Section 531.011 states:

The design and construction of all facilities shall be subject to approval by the County Engineer. Such required facilities, additional space provided, and access drives thereto, including required curb-cuts, shall be:

1. Sloped and constructed to provide adequate drainage of the area
2. Surfaced with a sealed surface pavement
3. Maintained in such a manner that no dust will be produced by continuous use.

"Surfaced with a sealed surface pavement" refers to asphalt, cement, or similar surfaces such as stone or brick in order to meet code. Gravel and dirt do not meet code and are therefore violations. Proper surfacing must be completed to bring a driveway or extension into compliance. Remember that driveway extensions must be within three feet of the property line.

Joe Bailey of Franklin County would perform the inspection. After an inspection, Franklin County allows approximately two weeks for compliance. So when you plan your driveway extension, be sure to include the cost of proper surfacing. If you have questions, call Joe at the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning office, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., 462-3094.

Responses: As good neighbors, we should comply with current code in regard to surfacing driveways and keep proper distance from property lines. We should plan our extensions to include the cost of surfacing. Remember, in 2008, there will be fines for code violations.

—Pam Clegg, Block Watch Coordinator

Perception Is Reality, and Communication Is Everything!

Much of our reality is based on perception of people, places, and things. Numerous studies in psychology have told us that someone may have a perception of somebody based on how they look. They may think that an attractive person might be smarter, nicer, wealthier, and a harder worker than a less attractive person. The truth is that a nice looking guy or gal may be perceived as nice, but the reality could be that this person is very mean and disrespectful.

Some may establish their reality on someone based on how they communicate or how they “project” themselves. Our recent two Presidents may be a good example. Some may look at their southern dialect and simple ways of thinking and perceive them as being less than intelligent. Others may look at these same qualities and find them likable qualities. Some people like leaders who talk and think on their level. Obviously there is no clear right or wrong on this issue, but the reality of who this person is may be altered by the perception of the others who look and listen to them.

Sometimes the best remedy for an altered reality is to communicate. More specifically, how or what a person communicates to others will determine the perception of this person and consequently the reality of who this person is in the lives of others.

So how does this apply to life in Huber Ridge? Recently, I was viewing the discussion boards on our website, www.huberridge.org, when I came across a thread in which someone had complained about the police department and their lack of interest in helping others with 911 calls. The resident believed that the police did not care for anything other than sitting out on 161 and chasing down speeders. Her reality was that the police were not doing their job. The reality, however, is much different. A very thoughtful and laid out response was sent by Chief John Belford explaining how the 911 phone system works. Here is an example of how a person's perception affected her reality when it came to her opinion of the police. Thankfully, Chief Belford did the best thing. He did not sulk over a critical e-mail or alter his perception that the residents of this community

are out to make problems for his department. Instead, he COMMUNICATED the position of the police department on this matter. This may have helped to alter this resident's view or perception of the police department.

It is so important to remember that “perception is reality” and that in order to have others view you in a better light (or at least a more realistic one), you must communicate who you are to others!

Some residents may have altered perceptions of the police department, the street department, or even our township trustees. The reality, however, may be that these perceptions are altered by a great many factors including the most important one of all: lack of communication.

This is where your HRAA comes in. With the help of our website, discussion boards, and newsletter, we are able to communicate to you what is going on in Huber Ridge and even provide a forum (such as the discussion boards and our once-a-month member meeting) for you to express your ideas and hear from others. All these work towards the end goal of giving you the proper perception of what is going on in Huber Ridge.

However, these important methods of information can't continue to run without your help. Would you consider taking a step forward and becoming a member of your HRAA? Fifteen dollars a year and your involvement can be a great way to help your association achieve its goal of communicating the reality of what is going on in Huber Ridge and hopefully change the perception of Huber Ridge for the better. Remember: Perception is reality, and communication is everything. Please help us to continue to communicate! Thank you.

—Brian McMahon, Vice President

Halloween Block Watch— an Historic Success with Many to Thank

Beggars' Night in Huber Ridge had an unusual flair that will be remembered and recorded as a success for our community. Approximately 16 volunteers from Faith Covenant Church, located at 3607 Dempsey Road, patrolled Huber Ridge Elementary School and various streets in the neighborhood to help ensure the safety of our children. And the night was without incident.

In previous years, there have been a few unpleasant incidents at the school on Halloween night. Hoping to avert such problems, School Principal Barbara Wallace and PTA President Lorena Talbert requested help from the Association at the September HRAA meeting. Representatives from Faith Covenant Church were also at the meeting and quickly

volunteered to carry out their request. This was to my surprise and delight.

Ed Chilcoat of Faith Covenant coordinated and executed the successful block watch. Such an accomplishment does not happen on impulse. It took a lot of time, planning, and willing people. Those who volunteered had to undergo a background check to be qualified for this community service. All volunteers were from the church.

Volunteers wore bright orange vests and carried flashlights, candy, and cell phones. The cell phones were their link to the Blendon Township Police to communicate concerns. These volunteers made a noticeable difference. The Police were appreciative of their community policing as were many residents.

One neighbor said:

I called to extend a huge WOW and THANK YOU to the volunteers of the church who went through the neighborhood. Even my guests who were here for trick-or-treat night were thrilled that we didn't have to run security like we have in the past 15 years at least

The people from the Church did a phenomenal job. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Thanks to Principal Barbara Wallace of Huber Ridge Elementary and Lorena Talbert, Huber Ridge PTA President, for proactive thinking and their call to action; thanks to Ed Chilcoat of Faith Covenant for all his work; many thanks to the volunteers who served our community and made a difference; finally, thanks to Lt. Lephart of the Blendon Township Police Department for coordinating with Ed and fostering cooperation among police and volunteers.

Year after year our police have faithfully served our community on Halloween night. Did you know that as they patrol, our police pass out candy to our children on Beggars' Night? If you are a member of the HRAA, then you also deserve thanks because your dues contributed to the police candy budget for our children.

This was block watch at its best—police and citizens working together for a common goal of peace and safety. This was community at its best—people working together to make a difference.

—Pam Clegg, Block Watch Coordinator



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Block Watch Street Representatives

Area	Street	House	Name(s)	Phone
A	Arnett Ct.	3361	Bill and Gloria Cochenour	882-2639
	Dahlgreen Dr.	3525	Mindy March	523-3184
	Dempsey Rd. (3352-3547)	3473	Era McMahon	891-5312
	Hunt Club Rd., N.	3378	Emily Patterson	899-3742
B	Balboa Pl.	3815	Karen Boley	523-3006
	Batavia Rd.	6101	Debb Candow	728-6817
	Paris Bl., N.	6084	Joellen Lugin	882-0030
C	Canberra Ct.	3515	Edwin England	794-3049
	Dakar Rd., E.	5903	George King	
	Paris Blvd. (3370-3611)	3463	Wayne and Jenny Carr	899-7373
	Rangoon Dr.	3510	Lori Mann	882-3795
	Saigon Dr.	3505	Jim and Amber Chill*	882-4220
	Bangasi Rd.	5971	Paul and Robin Wagner	392-0091
D	Bangasi Rd.	5943	Melanie Kopacsi	
	Karikal Dr.	3582	Janet Brown*	882-8684
	Karikal Dr.	3581	Merry Neff	804-7426
	Makassar Dr.	3614	Pam Clegg	891-9176
	Manila Dr. (3477-3551)	3480	Matt and Jackie Shumaker	895-8184
	Buenos Aires North of Paris	5788	Lynn Hays	599-3647
E	Caracas Dr.	3688	Barbara Muldrew	818-2712
	Caracas Dr.	3734	Eric and Carolyn Cordray	882-1310
	Varadero Dr.	5865	Tony Miller	890-1402
	Acapulco Pl.	5455	Lou Dunbar	882-0376
F	Copenhagen Dr.	5520	Bill and June Riggs	890-6070
	Madrid Dr. (5519-5610)	5625	Ralph and Judy Barrell	882-5298
	Madrid Dr. (3525-3620)	3599	Kathy Ridgway	899-9690
	Oslo Dr.	5561	Sharon Ricker*	891-1881
	Panama Dr. (3515-3622 West)	3515	Betsy Briggs	203-5404
	Bashaw Dr.	5680	Cheri Gray	899-0785
G	Bashaw Dr.	5663	Brent Sheffer	818-9324
	Bogota Dr.	3706	Nicholas Halliwell*	946-7615
	Managua Dr.	3668	Andrea Wei	890-8187
	Managua Dr.	3705	Frances Corkrean	890-1825
	Mexico Ave.	3661	Michelle Baum	895-9601
	Natalie Ct.	5652	Amy McCarthy	899-7859
	Santiago Dr.	3686	Daisy White	948-0635
	Spohn Ct. and Dr.	5601	Robin Thomas	891-2722
	Spohn Dr.	5614	Rae Robinson	895-2943

* Area Representative

If your street is not listed, we need you! E-mail blockwatch@huberridge.org or call 891-9176.

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Fall 2007 Shows Increase in Huber Area Home Sales

Huber Ridge area home sales appear to have experienced a slight increase (7 percent) in sales over the same period last year. September was a particularly prolific month for real estate sales in our neighborhood.

New neighbors, welcome! Currently, the Welcome Committee is re-tooling our program so it is entirely possible you have not received your welcome gift from the Huber Ridge Area Association. If you would like one, please contact welcome@huberridge.org. We'd love to meet you and give you a little gift from the HRAA to welcome you to the area.

The following listing of Huber Ridge area new home sales was graciously provided by Compuname (www.compuname.com).

First, however, our apologies to two new neighbors who were omitted from the welcome article in the last issue of *The Herald*. Dana and Colin King bought the home at 5606

Natalie Ct., S. in May; and Erin L. Yoakam bought the home at 3594 Stockholm Rd. in June. Please accept our apologies for this oversight!

September Sales:

Jeffrey Hoover and Bethany McCann, 6076 Batavia Rd.
Betty McDowell, 3755 Caracas Dr.
Michael J. and Kimberly S. Napoli, 3525 Rangoon Dr.
Gary A. and Janet A. Brandon, 3390 Montford Rd., N.
Alex L. Sombaty, 3385 Vickers Dr.
Rescued Homes, LTD, 6350 Hunt Club Rd., W.
John C. Weatherby and Deborah J. Calmbaugh, 3610 Madrid Dr.
Ryan P. Flynn and Kaitlyn A. Ryan, 3386 Vickers Dr.
Christine Marie Stevko, 5816 LaPaz Pl.
Marsha Bailey-Williams, 5672 Spohn Dr.

October Sales:

SN Properties 5548 Copenhagen Dr.
SN Properties, 5646 Santiago Dr.
Paul E. Kerber, 3500 Manila Dr.
Gary K. and Janet A. Chapman, 5667 Montevideo Rd.
Scott E. Rayburn and Kim M. Young, 5630 Copenhagen Dr.
Terry Scott, 3608 Panama Dr.
Federico Duran, Jr., 3686 Paris Blvd.
The Bank of New York Trust Co., 3733 Paris Blvd., E.
Michael R. and Kristin S. Farley, 3565 Makassar Dr.

November Sales:

Jacob Zelasny, 3384 Dempsey Rd.
Leonard Shenk and Valerie Poindexter, 3470 Brazzaville Rd.
Kenneth R. and Lise S. Wadkins, 3410 Saigon Dr.
Teresa Maynard, Eric Beltz, *et al.*, 5656 Oslo Dr.
Richard N. Rothkopf, 5584 Copenhagen Dr.
Double D Consultants, Inc., 3451 Paris Blvd.
Matthew J. Grosshart, 6451 Montford Rd., W.
Kristy and Joseph Sherwood, 6339 Montford Rd., W.

The Welcome Committee in conjunction with the HRAA would like to recognize and thank the generosity of our local area merchants who have contributed contents to our Welcome Bags. Please be sure to patronize our local area merchants! They are Buckeye Corner, Carsonie's, China House Restaurant, Hollywood Studio Theatre, Home Depot, Lifestyle Family Fitness, "Love Your Pet" Grooming Shop, Mary Kay (Barbara Muldrew, Consultant), Mini Storage, Monroe Brakes and Tires, Nail-A-Dumper.com, Joy Neff, Ohio State School of Cosmetology, Rub-a-Dub Pet Salon, Saturday's, Subway, Sunbury Plaza Dental, USPS, Varment Guard, Vineyard Church, and Waffle House. We welcomed the following merchants' contributions to our bags: Smackie's, Dana King—Avon Representative, and Franklin County Board of Elections. The HRAA also contributes

materials to the bags: a FREE introductory membership to the Association (\$15 value), back issues of *The Herald*, a list of important phone numbers, a welcome letter, and a bookmark.

If you are a local area merchant and are interested in contributing something to be included in the Welcome Bag, please contact Carolyn Cordray at welcome@huberridge.org.

—Carolyn Cordray, Welcome Committee Coordinator

We Need You!

It's a new year; and we, your HRAA, would like you to join our association. Let it be the number one item on your "to-do" list for 2008.

Over the last two years, we have made a difference in our neighborhood. Our quarterly newsletter is back and going strong. Ridgewood Park is looking better and better every year. Perhaps you've noticed the new steps thanks to the Boy Scouts and the new flower beds at the entrance. I am sure you have noticed our bright green shelter house with a white floodlight, which has helped to cut down on vandalism. Every spring we as an association spend a Saturday working together to make our park better.

This year the HRAA held the first annual Labor Day bike parade. Bikes, trikes, wagons, and a few pets—all decorated in red, white, and blue—made their way from the school to Ridgewood Park for prizes and treats. It was really hard to tell who enjoyed it more: the children, the adults, or our own Blendon Township Police Department. Our annual Halloween party keeps growing with greater neighborhood participation and fun every year. The Haunted Woods was even scarier than last year!

Our very own HRAA spearheaded a very successful grass roots campaign to thwart the Ohio American Water petition to the PUCO. All of this was without the support of the township trustees, yet the effort benefitted most residents of Blendon Township and was achieved without a cent of HRAA membership fees or account balances invested in the effort.

We have over 100 households and a new business as members, but we need you. As we all have seen, Ohio



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American Water has requested yet another rate hike. We as an association are planning, as we did last year, to fight this rate hike; and your help is needed. We've proved before that it can be done. For more information on the rate hike and on becoming a member of HRAA, please visit our website: www.huberridge.org.

—Eric Cordray, Membership Committee Coordinator

Thanks so very much!

As 2007 draws to a close and 2008 begins, it seems appropriate to express appreciation to those who have made the Huber Ridge Area Association quarterly newsletter, *The Herald*, possible.

The following 16 advertisers have supported our organization in 2007:

- ▶ ABCO Fire Protection, Inc.
- ▶ Carsonie's Italian Restaurant
- ▶ Convenient Tire Valet
- ▶ Barbara Crawford, Century 21 Joe Walker & Associates
- ▶ Cushions Billiards & Lounge
- ▶ Faith Covenant Church
- ▶ The Flaherty Consulting Group
- ▶ Heart & Home Realty
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- ▶ Brent A. Sheffer, Attorney at Law
- ▶ Donley E. Strong, CPA
- ▶ Sunbury Plaza Dental
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Please support our advertisers as they support us!

The following people have written articles for *The Herald* in 2007:

- ▶ Joe B. Bailey
- ▶ John C. Belford
- ▶ Pam Clegg
- ▶ Carolyn Cordray

- ▶ Eric Cordray
- ▶ Barbara Crawford
- ▶ Stewart Flaherty
- ▶ Julie Hedrick
- ▶ Lori Mann
- ▶ Amy McCarthy
- ▶ Brian McMahon
- ▶ Era McMahon
- ▶ Joya Neff
- ▶ Brent Sheffer
- ▶ Sara Stevenson-Thiegs
- ▶ Branch S. Wayt
- ▶ Jim Welch
- ▶ Daisy Kirkendall White

The articles that were submitted by these 18 writers are greatly appreciated. Huber Ridge residents are encouraged to submit articles for publication in 2008. Contact me at 891-6944 or at editor@huberridge.org for more information.

Finally, our gratitude must be expressed to The Ink Well at 399 South State Street in Westerville for making our printed publications look good and for offering guidance and encouragement with a smile! Sunir Patel and Robert

Volkovitch, you bring customer service to a new level of excellence!

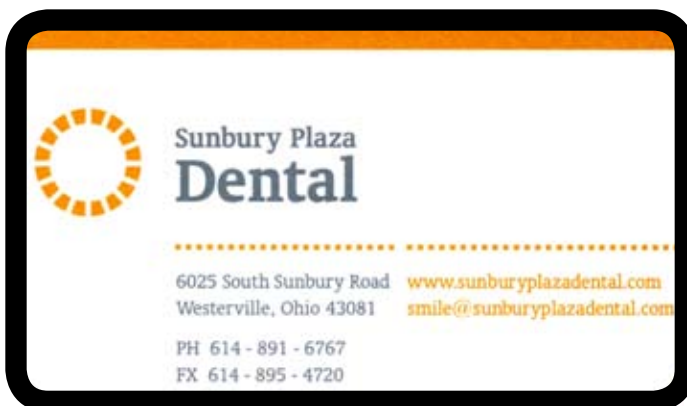
Again, thank you to our advertisers, writers, and printer for **all** that you have done for us in 2007.

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor

2007 HRAA Halloween Party: Spooky Fun Time for All

If you weren't able to make it to this year's HRAA Halloween party, you missed a good time! We saw a significant increase in attendance this year—in excess of 130 partygoers and volunteers; and the best news of all is this activity broke even, where expenditures equaled donations, with no additional funding necessary from the HRAA treasury. The party was held on Saturday, October 27, in Ridgewood Park from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The 70 young trick-or-treaters in attendance enjoyed many activities planned for the party. In addition to a light dinner of hot dogs, nacho chips, salsa, cookies, orange drinks, and coffee, entertainment for the evening included a hayride, Haunted Woods, a bonfire, Trick-or-Treat Street, Corn Hole

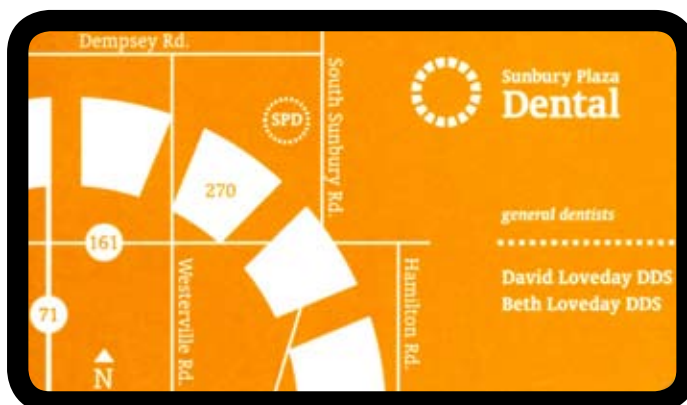


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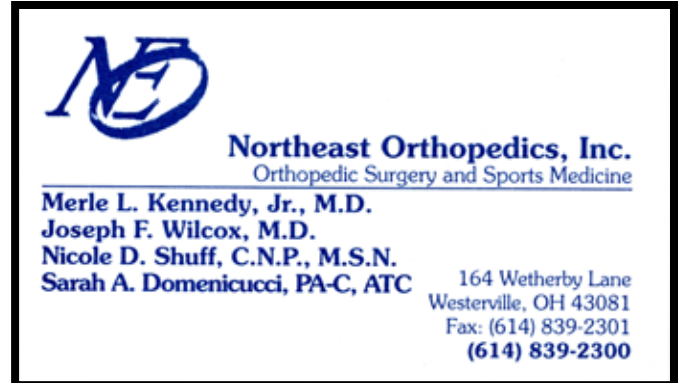
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Toss, Costume Contest, Raffle, and—of course—play time on the Ridgewood Park playground equipment.

The Haunted Woods as always was a huge attraction for partygoers. This year, neighborhood and local youth earned their Westerville schools community service credit by putting together the tour through the wooded area. Ryan McCarthy led this effort by coordinating volunteers: Dustin Wilkins, Troy White, Andrew Demens, Ali Osman, Scott Rayner, Jevin Clinkseales, Scott McRae, Devan Robinson, Sara Pierce, Carissa Thrush, and Paige Thrush. Tom Burke acted as on-site adult coordinator of the woods event this year.

Additional volunteers for the party were Stacy and Rob Pierce and family, Lou Dunbar, Janet Brown, Eric and Carolyn Cordray, Byron and Lori Mann, Pam and Hannah Clegg, Marje Obrist, Jim Welch, John Giamarco, Officers Rhoads and Peterson of the Blendon Township Police, and a host of other neighbors who pitched in as needed. To all, we say, "Thank you!" Special thanks to Blendon Township, which provided use of the tractor for the hayride as well as bales of hay and wood for the bonfire setup.

Our costume contest winners were as follows:

- ▶ Ages 0-5 years: 1st prize to T. J. and 2nd prize to Sierra
- ▶ Ages 6-9 years: 1st prize to Lauren and 2nd prize to Rachel
- ▶ Ages 10-13 years: 1st prize to Kenny and 2nd prize to McKenna
- ▶ Ages 14-17 years: 1st prize to Paige
- ▶ Adults: No adults came in costume!

The HRAA would also like to thank the following vendors for their gracious donations to our party: Kroger's (Columbus Square), McDonald's (Sunbury Road), Hollywood Studios Theater, Stanley Steemer, Hometown Buffet, Carsonie's, Cushion's, Half-Price Books, Tim Horton's, Gourmet Gifts, Stewart Flaherty, Brent Sheffer, and the many residents who donated bags of candy for our Trick-or-Treat Street.

Attendee feedback indicated a good time was had by all, and ideas are already being generated for next year's party!

—Carolyn Cordray, Halloween Party Coordinator

A Success for the Third Time: HRAA Clothing Drive

Your HRAA annual Clothing Drive held this year on Sunday, November 11, was a success. If you can help just one person down on his luck/in need, if you can help just one person who has to decide between feeding his family or putting clothes on their backs, then you call it a success.

A.W.A.R.E. (All Westerville Area Residents Enriched) does just that. A.W.A.R.E. helps clothe the families in need. For the third straight year, your HRAA and residents have helped A.W.A.R.E. do just that.

Sunday, November 11, from 1 to 3 p.m., I was in Ridgewood Park collecting clothing to donate to A.W.A.R.E. as residents of Huber Ridge were bringing bags and boxes of used clothing—enough to fill my 6-foot by 4-foot pickup truck bed—although the total amount collected was down this year compared to previous years. Together we helped a few families in need.

Thank you to all who participated this year; we will do it again next year.

Donation Receipt

A.W.A.R.E.

All Westerville Area
Residents Enriched

Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Phone#

Received by: *Marge*

Date *12/06/06*

Drop off Wed. 1-4pm

Rear of 156 E. Broadway

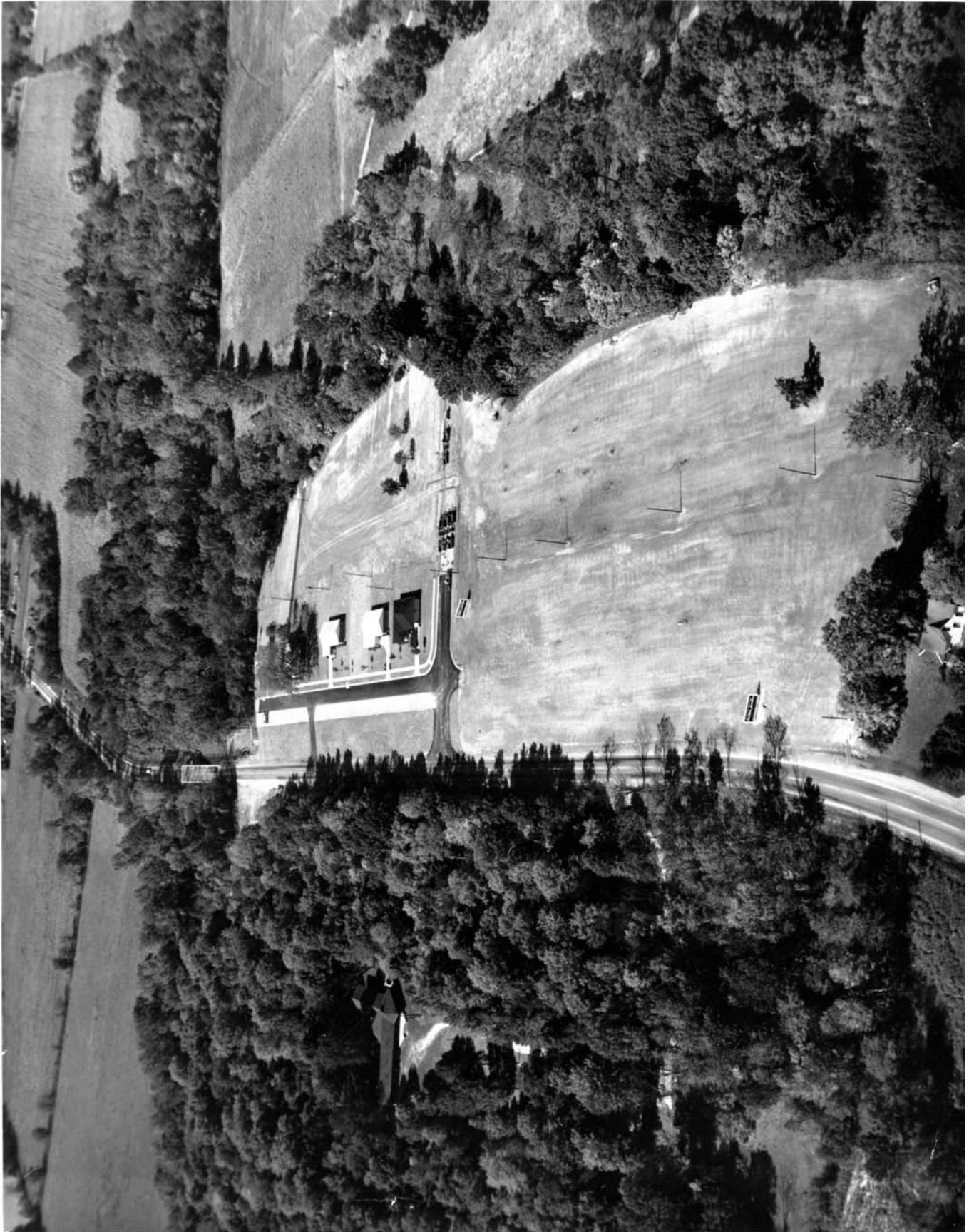
(Inside gated area)

Westerville, Oh. 43081

For Pick up call Marge

614-890-0229

—James Welch, President



*This picture from 1961 shows the beginning of our community along Dublin-Granville Road, Route 161, looking west.
Photo courtesy of Almira Smock Wiebell.*

Huber Ridge Area History to be Presented January 25

The Westerville Historical Society will feature the development of the Huber Ridge neighborhood at the January meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center.

Long-time resident Almina Smock Wiebell is the featured speaker. The Oslo Drive resident helped to shape the community in many ways, and for several years she reported about its people and significant issues.

She will recall some of the same challenges facing the Township 45 years ago such as water and sewage, police and fire, traffic and crime.

Many families moved in and move on, but many others have chosen to stay and retire here. Whichever you are, you are invited to join the Historical Society at 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

—Tom Wiebell, Neighbor

Election Results 2007

There were 1,207 Blendon Township residents who went to the polls Tuesday, November 6, to vote for our local government.

Congratulations to Jerry L. Ward, who was elected Trustee for four more years; to Stewart Flaherty, who was elected Trustee for the remaining two years of Kevin Bacon's term; and to Wade Estep, who was elected Fiscal Officer for four more years.

This is your township; you can and do make a difference.

—James Welch, President

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HRAA Profiles: Tom and Almina Wiebell

Almina Smock Wiebell moved to Huber Ridge in December of 1961; her family was the third to move into a home on Oslo Drive. Tom Wiebell settled in a home on Buenos Aires in the summer of 1968.

When asked what attracted her to the area, Almina said that it was the desire to move from a small apartment to an affordable (\$15,998) brick home in Huber Ridge. Both Tom and Almina quickly became involved in their new community; Almina was a founder of the Huber Ridge *Civic* Association in 1963 or 1964 and did publicity for the Association, and Tom served as its President.

The Weibells are members of the Huber Ridge *Area* Association now because they want to support the people who are interested in keeping up this great community.

Tom worked with WOSU for over 25 years before retiring. He now is on WRFD radio on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Almina worked as a volunteer in many capacities at St. Paul's Church, the Mothers of Twins Club, and the Huber Ridge Parent Teacher Association (of which she was President). She also worked with the Township Trustees to get police department and fire department service for Blendon Township. She served as a correspondent for *The Public Opinion*.

Almina is the only resident of Blendon Township to have been awarded the God and Country Award for her community service.

Almina will present the history of Blendon Township at the Westerville Historical Society's meeting on January 25, 2008. This meeting is open to residents of Huber Ridge.

Almina has also promised to write articles on the history of our community for future issues of *The Herald*.

The Huber Ridge Area Association commends Tom and Almina Wiebell for their active, continual service to our community!

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor



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Are Gasoline Prices Burning Up Your Income?

This winter, as the price of gas is between \$3 and \$4 a gallon and oil company profits soar into double- and triple-digit billions per quarter, gasoline prices are eating up our paychecks.

Well, I cannot do anything about the gasoline prices; but I can give you tips on how to maximize your fuel economy:

- ▶ Keep your tires inflated to the manufacturer's suggested PSI—listed on the inside of the driver's door.
- ▶ Properly maintain your vehicle per the manufacturer's suggested intervals for oil changes, tune-ups, and fuel filter replacements. All of these can be found in your owner's manual, or consult your local repair facility.
- ▶ Check and replace your air filter as needed.
- ▶ Always follow your vehicle manufacturer's suggested maintenance schedule as this will optimize your performance and fuel economy.

—Jim Welch, President

A Smorgasbord of Potential Problems

As we approach the winter months, many residents will employ various methods to take the chill out of their homes. Some examples are fireplaces, central heating, and kerosene and electric portable heaters. All these devices provide warmth and comfort to help us get through these chilly winter months. These devices can also provide a potential hazard to your home and to the safety of your loved ones.

Add to this the festive holiday lights and decorations for the Christmas season, and you have a real smorgasbord of potential problems. Your friends at the HRAA want to remind you to be extra careful during this time of the year.

The Ohio State Fire Marshal reports that since 2000, nine deaths and more than 1.3 million dollars in damages were reported as a result of fires involving Christmas trees and holiday decorations.

The State Fire Marshal has a few suggestions to make Christmas 2008 safe and enjoyable:

- ▶ Make sure lights are in good working order. Inspect the lines to make sure there are no cracks or tears. Look for UL certification on the cord. When replacing a burnt-out bulb, make sure the wattage of the bulb is the same as the wattage for the light system. Of course, don't overload outlets with too many lights and do not leave lights unattended for long periods of time while they are on.
- ▶ When selecting a Christmas tree, make sure the tree is as fresh as possible. The trunk should be extra sticky to the touch. Inspect limbs for flexibility. Limbs should be flexible but not flimsy. Bounce the tree up and down and observe the volume of needles that fall off the tree. A noticeable excess of needles falling off should indicate that the tree is drying up and you should move on to another tree.
- ▶ When putting up the tree, make a fresh cut in the base of the tree and keep the tree as far away from heat sources as possible. Make sure the tree is watered daily.

In regards to general home safety during the winter months, make sure that all portable heaters are used in accordance with the instruction manual and have 3 feet of space between the heater and any potentially flammable items. Make sure central heating is in good working order and have fresh filters. Chimneys should be cleaned and kept free from buildup. In addition, make sure you have a carbon monoxide monitor in your home.

Of course, the most important thing you can do to ensure the safety of your loved ones this winter is to make sure that you have smoke detectors on each level of the home. The State Fire Marshal reported that 90 percent of the victims who died in fires last year lived in residences that had no smoke detectors or that had non-functioning devices.

For more information on home fire safety during these winter months, please check out the State of Ohio Fire Marshal's website at www.com.state.oh.us.

—Brian McMahon, Vice President

DONLEY E. STRONG, CPA
Certified Divorce Financial Analyst

(614) 898-8299
dstrong374@aol.com

20 Huber Village Blvd.
Westerville, OH 43081

Children and Dogs Together Safely

Certain segments of the human population in the United States relate to dogs as if the dog is a pseudo-human—in fact, denying the dog is an animal at all unless the dog causes the type of injury which becomes the lead story on the evening news. When the dog is involved in a collision with a human, especially a child, the dog—often the TYPE of dog—is blamed. The Center for Disease Control records over 4 million dog-bite injuries every year. There is no proof that a TYPE of dog is at fault. Sadly the public has been lulled into a false sense of security by the media. If a dog is of a certain “type,” it is vicious while dogs not of that type will be safe and make good family pets.

Thirty-one years of professional experience in canine behavior allows me to tell you that there is no breed or type of dog better than another or “safer” than another. The one component which has been absent in each case I have studied where a dog injures a child is a competent, informed, supervisory adult. Two constants which have always been in my own personal and professional life have been dogs and children—nieces and nephews, godchildren and neighbor kids, the children of friends and family, dogs of all makes and models, dogs of lofty training and titles, dogs that had suffered horrid abuses or that had a history of aggressive behavior. Each occasion I and my colleagues view yet another story concerning a child “mauled” by a dog, we all say the same thing, “Where were the parents?”

I have heard it said time and again, “You can’t watch them ALL the time.” Okay, maybe not, but you can begin to teach children at a very young age how they should conduct themselves in the presence of familiar and unfamiliar dogs. Safety is proactive, not reactive; and the fundamentals of having children be safe around dogs are so easy!

Teach children the following: they should not run, use a loud voice or high pitch, hit, attempt to take objects or items from a dog, surprise, frighten, or otherwise disturb the dog. Children should never be allowed to impose a punishment or correction on a dog and most certainly should not bother the dog as it eats. Children should be taught they should never approach an unfamiliar dog no matter if the owner says his or her dog doesn’t “bite.” Children must be taught they should stay away from any dog confined in a car, behind a fence, or tethered; they should also be schooled in the same principles while with you at a place such as a veterinarian, boarding, or grooming facility. If a child wants to take the dog for a “walk,” the child should be in the company of a parent, no matter what—not a sibling, not a friend—a parent as any

number of very dangerous things can easily happen without an adult along.

Never “assume” because your dog never previously bit anyone that it will not do so; ALL dogs bite. My fellow dog owners, these are the things that we should be doing. We should keep our dogs on leashes when off our property, and most certainly take baggies along for cleanup if we take our dogs walking. We should not allow our male dogs to leg lift on flowers or shrubs. We should not leave our dogs unsupervised even in our fenced yards so they may bark for lengthy periods of time at neighbors, passersby, or nothing at all. When our neighbors are entertaining outdoors or doing lawn work or when children or their pets are about, we should bring our dog back indoors. When we visit outdoor events such as art festivals; jazz and rib; Red, White and Boom; and parades, we should leave our dogs at home. We should not be leaving our dogs tethered or unattended in cars. The open bed of a pickup truck is not safe for live cargo; children and pets should ride in the cab. When we have people over, we should remind ourselves that “Love me; love my dog!” is not always true; and containing the dog in a comfortable area of our home is good for the dog and the guests. Teaching an old dog new tricks is fun and rewarding; attend a positive reinforcement/clicker class with your dog.

We should also be conscious of the fact that because our dog is “purebred” or has “papers,” this is not a reason to breed it and sell puppies. The breeding of dogs should be reserved for professionals who have dogs with titles. Dogs that are spayed and neutered and that have attended an obedience class of quality with their owners are far less likely to pose a hazard because their owners are more aware of good information and how to practice responsible ownership. Keeping our veterinary records current and our dog licensed is just a good idea, and it’s also the law as is precise confinement and control of our dogs. Responsible dog owners supervise their dogs when children are present.

Lastly, I feel these words of caution need to be shared. If you are considering adding a dog to your family, adoption is the best option. Visit local shelters and pounds; meet the staff and adoption counselors. Even if the dog you hope to locate is not available on the spot, be a “pre-approved” home and, trust me, your dog WILL come along shortly. Avoid being a victim of the “retail” experience—no matter how cleverly the salesperson speaks to you. REPUTABLE PROFESSIONAL breeders of dogs do NOT market their puppies from a “store” in a strip mall. As well, be aware that being “certified” as a “behaviorist or trainer” can be done in a few weeks of vocational education or simply obtained via the Internet. In Ohio, we have one degreed animal behaviorist; and she works for the College of Veterinary Medicine at

OSU. She has her Masters in Applied Animal Behavior. At this time, I recommend, as does our behaviorist, one obedience class business here in Central Ohio. Each instructor on the staff of Dog Talk has completed the "Dogs" program at Purdue University and continued his or her education.

If you have dog questions, issues, or concerns, you may contact me at 599-3647.

—Lynn Hays, Neighbor

A Great Way to Save a Life!

Have you thought about getting a dog for a present this year? I'd like to give you a couple of options other than local pet stores and breeders. There are thousands of loving, good dogs that are waiting for you to take them home from shelters and humane societies. Adoption is a great way to save a life and start a long, loving relationship.

The agency that I volunteer for is P.A.W.S.; it is a non-profit organization that saves dogs from being euthanized and places them in foster or permanent homes. Never heard of fostering a dog? It's a great experience without the long-term commitment. My husband and I were blessed for 2.5 months while we fostered a four year old named Teddy. He truly was a perfect dog—got along great with our cats, was house trained, listened well, and loved to play! We wanted to keep him; but the month before our own dog had died, and we were still heart-broken. We weren't sure if we could handle falling in love all over again—but we did. We prayed to find Teddy a home. Our idea was a large house, large yard, and kids. Well, God does answer prayers; and Teddy has a loving family with a large yard and two kids to love.

Our story is one of many successful fosters and adoptions.

I urge you to re-think about paying for a dog from a breeder or a pet store when there are so many dogs at shelters that want to be yours—more than anything. If you'd like to get involved, make a donation or want more information on fostering/adopting, please contact **Poundhounds Adoption Welfare Society** at www.ohiopoundhounds.com (Powell, Ohio) or 614-354-5480 or 614-657-0955. They will work with you to find a time to meet one of their special animals.

PLEASE CONSIDER FOSTERING:

Fostering dogs until P.A.W.S. finds their "forever home" helps to socialize them and also frees up space in the kennels for more great dogs. All supplies, including food and vaccinations, are paid for by P.A.W.S.

Adoption:

Thanks to partnerships with local vets, all dogs and 8-week-old puppies go home spayed/neutered, vaccinated (including rabies vaccination if over 6 months), microchipped, heartworm tested (if over 6 months), on heart worm preventative, and de-wormed: a value of over \$300. You get all that for an adoption fee of \$175! **PLUS:** Each adoption from P.A.W.S. includes a FREE 30-day ShelterCare Pet Insurance Gift Policy!

OUT on the TOWN!!!

P.A.W.S. would like to attend every neighborhood fair, church bazaar, and community event. Over 10 percent of all our adoptions occur off-site. With more volunteers, more events can be attended; and more people can see what great dogs are available! Call 614-354-5480 to tell us of your event.

—Era McMahon, Secretary



A Tip from Sgt. Wayt ...

Gun safety is the responsibility of every gun owner. The tragedies that occur daily throughout our nation could be prevented by following simple guidelines. Never keep guns loaded, unsecured, or available for children to locate. Education on proper use, care, and handling is encouraged for all adults who have firearms in their homes. The Blendon Township Police encourage all gun owners to lock their firearms in a safe or other locking mechanical means.

—Sgt. Branch S. Wayt, Blendon Township Police



Editorial Guidelines for the Publication of THE HERALD Purpose

The Herald is published quarterly by the Huber Ridge Area Association (HRAA) for the purpose of informing the members and potential members of the Huber Ridge Area Association of the activities, concerns, and achievements of the HRAA. The HRAA Executive Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving the content of this newsletter.

Advertising Rates

Advertising rates are as follows:

- \$25 per issue for a business-card (3.5 x 2 inches) ad
- \$65 per issue for a quarter-page (3.75 x 5 inches) ad
- \$125 per issue for a half-page (7.5 x 5 inches) ad
- \$225 per issue for a full-page (7.5 x 10 inches) ad

Are YOU Willing to Join HRAA in 2008?

The **HUBER RIDGE AREA ASSOCIATION** represents the interests of Blendon Township residents and merchants who are generally located in the area surrounded by I-270, Route 161, and Route 3 (Westerville Road) plus Batavia Road and Court and Bader Road and Court.

Membership is open to any adult who resides within, owns real property within, or operates a business physically located within the Association boundaries. This includes adults who reside in neighborhoods adjacent to our boundaries but not within the boundaries of another neighborhood citizens' or civic association. An adult is any person who has attained the age of 18.

Only members in good standing are eligible to participate in business meetings, to vote, or to serve in any of the elected or appointed positions. A member in good standing includes any member who is current in his or her annual Association dues and has agreed to abide by the Bylaws as they are now or may be amended in the future. A member in good standing who is an absentee owner of real property or a business entity is allowed one (1) vote in any matter before the Association membership.

Dues are set for households and businesses, not individuals. One payment covers all members of a household including their minors. The minors shall enjoy all of the privileges of membership including service on committees and participation in activities but cannot vote. **The current dues amount is \$15, which covers the 12-month period through the end of the anniversary month and is non-refundable.**

—Eric Cordray, Treasurer

HUBER RIDGE AREA ASSOCIATION 2008 MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Application deems agreement by each person to abide by the Bylaws now or as amended.)

(Names of Adults)

(E-mail Addresses: Please indicate the e-mail address for each adult in the household.)

(Street Address)

(Phone)

2008 membership dues are Fifteen Dollars (\$15) per household. Dues may be paid at any meeting or mailed to the Treasurer, **Eric Cordray, 3734 Caracas Drive, Westerville, OH 43081**. Please make checks payable to the Huber Ridge Area Association and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for your membership information.

Please indicate if you would be willing to participate in any of the following activities:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Block Watch Street Rep | <input type="checkbox"/> National Night Out | <input type="checkbox"/> Ridgewood Park Cleanup Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HRAA Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Writer/Photographer | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizens Assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Halloween Haunted Park Costume Party | <input type="checkbox"/> OAW Water Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Committee |



January 3
January 25
February 7
March 6
April 3
April 19

HRAA Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
Westerville Historical Society at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 7:30 p.m.
HRAA Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
HRAA Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
HRAA Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
Ridgewood Park Cleanup Day at 9 a.m.

Join us on the first Thursday of every month.
Help make our community a better place to live!