

Plan to Attend 2008 HRAA Halloween Party

Mark your calendar for the 2008 HRAA Halloween Party! This year's spooky fun time is scheduled to be held Saturday, October 25, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Ridgewood Park.



As in previous years, we are planning for some fun and entertaining activities including a hayride, haunted woods, bonfire, trick-or-treat street, corn hole toss, costume contest, and raffle. Some new games will be added for everyone's entertainment this year! Additionally, a light supper will be made available to party-goers. Donations will be accepted to help defray the cost of the party.

their adults.

The Halloween Party is a success each year due to the efforts of many people who generously give their time to this event. We are in need of many such volunteers this year as well. Volunteers can give their time in many ways so if you have a little time to give before or during the party, please contact Carolyn Cordray, the Halloween Party organizer. She can be reached at welcome@huberridge.org or via phone at 446-4020.

Attention Westerville School Students: Working on this event can be used toward your community service requirements at school! It's a really FUN opportunity so contact Carolyn Cordray today to find out how you can help out!
—Carolyn Cordray, Halloween Party Coordinator

HRAA Will Sponsor a Holiday Lights and Decorations Contest This Year!

It is time once again to bring up the subject of lights. Not porch lights but holiday lights! I know, who wants to think about holiday lights now?

This is *exactly* the time to let you all know that this year your HRAA will be holding a holiday lights and decorations contest. The plans are in the early stage at the moment. We are thinking of having three types of categories; for example, best of contest overall, most energetic, and most classic. These ideas are subject to change, however, so keep reading our website, huberridge.org, or call me at 895-7325 for more details.

—Tom Burke, Vice President



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You Made a Difference!

Since the beginning of the current Ohio American Water Company (OAWC) request for a rate increase of 31.86 percent in October 2007, I have kept you up to date. I asked you to send letters of objection(s) to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) and Governor Strickland. You listened; and from October 12, 2007, until August 7, 2008, there have been 132 correspondence entries in the OAWC rate case 07-1112-WS-AIR.

The letters you sent surpassed the letters in the previous rate case, and this opened the door for the PUCO to hold a public hearing in Blendon Township.

I then worked with the PUCO to set a date and place for the public forum. A big thank you goes out to Faith Covenant Church, 3607 Dempsey Road, for hosting the forum. The Huber Ridge Area Association website (huberridge.org) was updated, signs were posted in the kiosks, and yard signs were displayed throughout Huber Ridge and Sunbury Woods.

To make a difference in this rate increase, we needed two key factors:

First, we needed letters sent in to exceed the previous rate case correspondence. You prevailed.

Second, we needed to exceed the attendance and testimony in the previous rate case; and again you stepped up to the plate and prevailed.

The PUCO rarely holds a public hearing in Franklin County because the last public hearing is held at the PUCO, 180 East Broad Street. The PUCO feels Franklin County residents can attend this hearing. Because of your letters in this rate case and the previous one, the desire to hold a hearing in Franklin County was established.

The previous increase hearing on December 5, 2006, was held at the Blendon Township Senior Center; it drew a crowd of 180+ residents and had approximately 3 hours of testimony. The increase hearing held on August 20, 2008, drew a crowd of 238+ registered people and approximately 3 3/4 hours of testimony.

Let me put this into perspective. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) defines an epidemic as 7.7 percent of a specific population. Congress has declared the housing



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The Herald

foreclosure problem to be of epidemic proportions. There are 1,623 homes in the Huber Ridge area and approximately 700 homes in Sunbury Woods totaling 2,323 households. That's a little over 10 percent—epidemic proportions, indeed!

Not only did you show up on August 20, but also approximately 50 OAWC customers testified to the PUCO. Listening to the testimony that evening for the PUCO were PUCO Commissioner Cheryl Roberto and PUCO Examiner Dick Bulgrin.

The public hearing drew a lot of outside attention. TV news channels 4, 6/28, and 10 were there filming. Newspaper columnists from *This Week*, *The Columbus Dispatch*, and the *Westerville SNP* were in attendance. Also present were some residents from Worthington Hills and Galloway as well as Steve Kennedy, Prairie Township Trustee.

OAWC had four employees and its lawyers there; the Ohio Consumers' Counsel had several lawyers and representatives; the PUCO had several staff members.

With approximately 238 residents in attendance, the hearing began. Resident after resident told their stories—ranging from price, hardships, water quality, and public relations issues with OAWC. You could see interest and concern of the PUCO representatives as each testimony was given.

I have attended four PUCO public hearings during this and the previous rate case; and immediately afterward, the OAWC lawyers and staff always tried to “chum” with the PUCO. But during this meeting, I had a great feeling that we were making a difference—an impact on this rate increase request. Immediately following the hearing at approximately 9:50 p.m., OAWC huddled together off to the side—not trying to “chum” with the PUCO.

After the hearing, I was approached by the OCC, complimenting us on our great hearing and stating that we did make an impact. Steve Kennedy stopped me and said the public hearing in Galloway on Monday, August 18, 2008, had a turnout of approximately 50 to 60 residents; and he thought they had a good meeting. He also said this was a fantastic turnout with great testimony, and he feels we made a great impact. Several PUCO staff members approached and thanked us for a great, civilized hearing.

During the conversations after the meeting, I found out the OAWC declared in June 2007 that the Huber Ridge Treatment Plant water quality issues were solved. Then on July 13, 2007, a letter from Thomas Lindgren, Assistant Attorney General, Public Utilities Section, advised OAWC not to declare the water quality issue solved. In November 2007 during OAWC's application for the current rate increase, OAWC again stated the water quality issue had been resolved and guaranteed the PUCO that Huber Ridge water customers

would not flood the rate increase docket nor would there be much of a turnout if a hearing were to be held in Huber Ridge.

To the PUCO's surprise upon hearing OAWC's statement, we flooded the docket with letters and had a better turnout at our public hearing than the previous one and had numerous testimonies about the water quality. I was also informed our hearing will make a difference in this application to raise our rates.

The turnout, the testimony, and your letters and petitions will make a difference! I was assured every letter entered into the rate case will be read and considered and the hearing transcript will be read before any decision is made on the increase figure.

To each and every one who mailed a letter, signed and/or circulated a petition, attended the PUCO public forum, testified at the forum, or had anything to do with any part of the opposition to the rate increase, thank you! You did make a difference!

We should know the extent of the difference we made sometime in late September to early November. As soon as I know, we will post it on our website. As always, please check your community's website for updates: huberridge.org.

I can assure you OAWC's quest to become the richest water company will not stop with this increase application; but I can assure you that, with the community's support, as long as I am able and in a position to be there, I will be there to make a difference and to derail their quest.

Thank you! You made a difference!

—James Welch, President

[Editor's Note: Jim Welch testified for *an hour* at the PUCO public hearing on Tuesday, August 26. Following his testimony, the hearing was postponed at the request of the OAWC in order to allow the OAWC to negotiate. Jim feels that we may not come out as well under negotiations.]



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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
	Montford Rd., W.	6365	Jeannie and Travis MacKowiak	818-9220
B	Balboa Pl.	3815	Karen Boley	523-3006
	Batavia Rd.	6101	Debb Candow	644-9849
	Paris Bl., N.	6084	Joellen Lugin	882-0030
C	Brazzaville Rd.	3484	Tiffany and Jubal Wagner	794-3780
	Canberra Ct.	3515	Edwin England	794-3049
	Dakar Rd., E.	5903	George King	
	Paris Blvd. (3370-3496)	3463	Wayne and Jenny Carr	899-7373
	Rangoon Dr.	3510	Lori Mann	882-3795
D	Saigon Dr.	3505	Jim and Amber Chill*	882-4220
	Bangasi Rd.	5971	Paul and Robin Wagner	392-0091
	Bangasi Rd.	5943	Melanie Kopacsi	
	Karikal Dr.	3582	Janet Brown*	882-8684
	Makassar Dr.	3614	Pam Clegg	891-9176
E	Manila Dr. (3477-3551)	3480	Matt and Jackie Shumaker	895-8184
	Buenos Aires North of Paris	5788	Lynn Hays	599-3647
	Caracas Dr.	3688	Barbara Muldrew	818-2712
	Caracas Dr.	3734	Eric and Carolyn Cordray	882-1310
	Montevideo Dr. North of Caracas	5786	Erika and Michael Schlaegel	948-5294
F	Paris Bl. (3625-3695)	3677	Patricia Spencer	895-0845
	Paris Bl., E. (3699-3752)	3723	Dorothy Crawford	882-8243
	Acapulco Pl.	5455	Lou Dunbar	882-0376
	Copenhagen Dr.	5520	Bill and June Riggs	890-6070
	Madrid Dr. (5519-5610)	5625	Ralph and Judy Barrell	882-5298
G	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
	Stockholm Rd.	3578	Leslie Jordan	823-6496
	Bashaw Dr.	5680	Cheri Gray	899-0785
	Bashaw Dr.	5663	Brent Sheffer	818-9324
	Managua Dr.	3668	Andrea Wei	890-8187
	Managua Dr.	3705	Frances Corkrean	890-1825
	Mexico Ave.	3661	Michelle Baum	895-9601
	Montevideo Dr., South of Caracas	5598	Jonathan Howard	302-4990
	Natalie Ct.	5652	Amy McCarthy	899-7859
	antiago 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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Summer Home Sales Sluggish

In spite of the slow sales of homes in the Huber Ridge area, the HRAA would still like the opportunity to welcome our new neighbors! Have you attended a monthly Welcome Reception and received your gift bag from the HRAA yet? All you have to do is come to our reception to welcome new home owners to the Huber Ridge area. It is held on the first Thursday of the month just before our association meeting at 6 p.m. at the Blendon Senior Center. Anyone who has not yet come to get his or her Welcome Bag can attend any of the receptions regardless of when you purchased your home here.

The following listing of Huber Ridge area new home sales was graciously provided by CompuName LLC (compu-name.com or 891-7373):

May Sales (from May 22 to May 31, 2008):

Federal National Mortgage Assn., 3654 Mexico Ave.

June Sales:

Deutsch Bank National Trust Co., 3455 Paris Blvd.

Shirley Malone, 6106 Bolamo Ct.

Tamara S. Lance and John E. Davis, 6419 Montford Rd., W.

Matthew S. Shannon, 3560 Makassar Dr.

July Sales:

Juliette H. Dudley, 3678 Lima Dr.

Hilary M. Schreck, 3673 Paris Blvd.

Federal National Mortgage Assn., 6200 Arnett Rd.

Brandi L. Smith, 5750 Montevideo Rd.

Travis and Elsie Hunt, 3455 Paris Blvd.

August Sales (through August 11, 2008, only):

Rocky Adams, 3370 Hunt Club Rd., N.

Edward L. and Trisha A. Purcell, 5865 Veradero Dr.

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 Avon (Dana King), The Best Breakfast & Sandwiches, Carsonie's, China House Restaurant, Cushions Billiards & Lounge, Franklin County Board of Elections, Home Depot, "Love Your Pet" Grooming Shop, Mary Kay (Barbara Muldrew, Consultant), Mini Storage, Monroe Brakes and Tires, Joy Neff, Ohio State School of Cosmetology, Rub-a-Dub Pet Salon, Saturday's, Smackie's, Subway, Sunbury Plaza Dental, USPS, Varmint Guard, Vineyard Church, and Waffle House. 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. New neighbors, don't miss out on the wonderful offers and items we have to welcome you to the neighborhood!

—Carolyn Cordray, Welcome Committee Coordinator

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Ridgewood Park Enhancements

Special thanks go to Blendon Township and its Road and Service Department Director John Giamarco and his crew for the following enhancements in Ridgewood Park:

- 🚧 Newly paved parking lot
- 🚧 New bench next to the volleyball court
- 🚧 Lawn treatment
- 🚧 Gravel surrounding the shelter house and the parking lot
- 🚧 Removal of the dead ash trees at the front of the park
- 🚧 Placement of signs reminding dog owners to leash, curb, and clean up after their pets
- 🚧 Painting of the underside of the shelter house roof

John Giamarco says that the Township is planning to replace a lot of the old toys in the Park with new ones next spring; he hopes there will be adequate funds to replace the big wooden toy and the spiral slide and to eliminate the merry-go-round.

If money is available, there are plans to make a permanent structure for the port-of-pots where the old outhouse was.

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor

Huber Ridge Bl🌸ms—the Talk of the Town

Your HRAA wanted to encourage beautification, so we developed our own community garden show and contest and called it “Huber Ridge Bl🌸ms.” All you had to do to enter was e-mail or call one of the committee members—and have a great garden to show! It was a surprising, resounding success. We know the community was excited because we kept hearing from you about this event.

To culminate the event, participants were invited to a Gardeners’ Reception at Ridgewood Park to receive awards. Trustee Stewart Flaherty and his wife, Marcia, were our honored guests. Stewart Flaherty was the donor of the first place award, which was two \$50 gift cards to Home Depot. We had 14 participants and essentially 14 winners. Of the fourteen, 4 received cash prizes; but all received something.

Creatively decorated thematic gift bags, designed and decorated by committee member and judge, Carolyn Cordray, were given to the 10 non-cash winners at the Gardeners’ Reception. The bags contained an extra copy of *The Herald* (for family), a packet of Miracle-Gro®, a coupon for half-off HRAA membership (a \$7.50 value), a Waffle House coupon, key rings, Bob Evans maps, Vineyard packets, and other promotional items.

Thanks to all who participated in this event. You worked hard to beautify your homes and the community. You have made a difference in our community. All are winners—tangibly and intangibly. The 14 who were part of this contest were indeed the “pioneers” as Trustee Stewart Flaherty said at the Gardeners’ Reception. Some of you were hesitant to enter this first year. We have admired your work from afar and expect to hear from you next year.

Huber Ridge Bl🌸ms Participants and Winners

Roger and Darlene Hambel, 3374 Dempsey Road

Fred and Adeline Odrumsky, 3331 Vickers Drive

Kristin Kelley, 6360 Arnett Road

Lee and Mindy March, 3525 Dahlgreen Drive

Al and Lanita Davis, 3547 Dempsey Road

Brian and Jaclyn Davis, **2nd place winner** (\$50 cash), 3636 Bolamo Drive

Matt and Jennie Dapore, 3495 Rangoon Drive

Ralph and Judy Barrell, **4th place winner** (\$25 cash), 5625 Madrid Drive

Chris Takacs, 5556 Madrid Drive

Tom and Almina Wiebell, 5519 Oslo Drive

Sharon Ricker, **1st place winner** (two \$50 gift cards to Home Depot), 5561 Oslo Drive

Pat and Fran Corkrean, 3705 Managua Drive
Christopher McCoy, **3rd place winner** (\$35 cash), 3660 East
Dublin-Granville Road
James Welch, 5460 Acapulco Place
—Pam Clegg, Carolyn Cordray, and Marje Obrist,
2008 Committee Members and Judges



Dempsey Creativity by Roger and Darlene Hambel



*First Place Winner Sharon Ricker
with Blendon Township Trustee Stewart Flaherty*



*Winners Listening to Stewart Flaherty's Congratulations
in Ridgewood Park*



Ralph and Judy Barrell's Splash of Color on Madrid



Arnett Corner Conglomerate by Kristin Kelley

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Garage Sale Results

This year's Community Garage Sale hosted by your HRAA and **Century 21 Joe Walker & Associates** (Barbara Crawford) was another success! We had 63 homes registered in time. We had great weather and nothing but good comments from registered homes as well as traveling sale goers.

A huge thank you goes to all the homes that registered in time and to all those who pitched in and helped out.

—Tom Burke, Vice President

National Night Out on Acapulco Place

Blendon Township Police Det. Eric Moore joined residents of Acapulco Place to celebrate National Night Out on August 5 at the home of Esther Cunliff and Tom Burke. (Actually, it was National Night In because of the heat, humidity, and threat of thunderstorms.)



Det. Eric Moore Giving Acapulco Place Neighbors a Tour of a Blendon Township Police Car

Neighbors made their selections from a dessert buffet and then listened to Det. Moore's well-planned presentation. He began with a guided tour of a Blendon Township Police car and then asked residents to describe Blendon Township Clerk/Secretary Ruth Roese and her car after she had driven around the court. (Not one neighbor noticed the license plate number.) Det. Moore then gave each resident a copy of a home security inspection checklist and responded to questions and concerns. Please let us know what *you* did to focus on crime prevention awareness!

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor



Brian's Handiwork at the Davises' Home on Bolamo



Almina and Tom Wiebell's Pond Pride on Oslo

Photographs by Hannah Clegg

huberridge.org Monthly Hit Report

August 2008
2,545


July 2008
4,471

June 2008
3,431

May 2008
3,041

April 2008
3,328

March 2008
2,625



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Franklin County Treasurer Ed Leonard Spoke, 21 Heard

Franklin County Treasurer Ed Leonard spoke at the August 7 HRAA meeting. Twenty-one residents benefited from his message telling us what the Treasurer does and how his office can save us (taxpayers) money.

In short, the Treasurer's office:

- ▶ works with and for the community to educate. Examples: It helps our students learn the importance of good grades to improve their financial future; it offers tips to avoid identity theft; it offers foreclosure help; and it offers general financial education.
- ▶ is the investor of the County and is regulated as to what it can invest.
- ▶ keeps our money safe and liquid and seeks the best return on it.
- ▶ is the tax collector of the County, e.g., real estate and personal property taxes, businesses, and mobile home taxes.
- ▶ invests the County sales tax dollars (but does not set the

tax rates).

Ways to Save on Your Taxes

The Treasurer's office offers:

- ▶ a number of payment plans.
- ▶ direct debit monthly payments, which earn better-than-average interest (**This is new!**)
- ▶ credits, i.e., 2.5 percent rollback if you live in the home you own. Check your tax bill for this. If "yes" is next to the option, then you are receiving this benefit. If "no" and you live in the home, then call to make the change. You will not, however, be given credit for the past.
- ▶ homestead credit for those 65 years and older. **You must apply for it.** If you have already applied for this, then there is no need to reapply. Only one person on the mortgage needs to qualify. There is no longer a minimum income requirement.
- ▶ late payment remission. Again, you have to apply for it by contacting the Treasurer's office. The office offers payment plans to get you current.

Ways to Pay Your Taxes

- ▶ by mail
- ▶ at the bank
- ▶ at the Treasurer's office
- ▶ online e-checks (free service)
- ▶ by credit card (you will have to pay credit card fees charged by the card company)

Please visit the County Treasurer's website www.Franklin-CountyOhio.gov/treasurer or call 462-7515 for more details. Our HRAA website, huberridge.org, has a direct link to the website. Thank you, Mr. Leonard, for taking your time to educate our community.

—Pam Clegg, Block Watch Coordinator

Huber Ridge Elementary Bulletin Board

The Huber Ridge Elementary School has now completed half of the half-mile long walking track on the perimeter of the school grounds. At a cost thus far of \$17,000, this project is intended to enhance the community by providing residents with a nearby track to use. The School has donated trees, and future plans to complete the track are to add benches along the way as well.

School Principal Barbara Wallace estimates that finishing up the project will require over \$20,000 so the School is holding two fund-raising events this fall. The first will be the Weenie Roast on October 2 where sports memorabilia will be auctioned off to raise money. The second event will be the Walk-a-thon on October 10. Watch huberridge.org for details or plan to attend the next HRAA meeting always scheduled

the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Blendon Township Senior Center.

—Carolyn Cordray, Welcome Committee Coordinator

HRAA Annual Clothing Drive Will Be November 9

Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 9, from 1 to 3 p.m. I will be at Ridgewood Park collecting clothing for our 4th annual clothing drive to benefit A.W.A.R.E. (All Westerville Area Residents Enriched).

Times are tough; and prices are high, which translates into more people in need this year. It could be your friend, your neighbor, or even a family member. So when you find that last year's school clothing doesn't fit or when you are putting away summer clothes and bringing out fall and winter clothes, please remember to save items for our annual clothing drive. The need is great; and if you can help just one person or one family, that would be great.

A.W.A.R.E. cleans and distributes the items collected to local churches and organizations to benefit local families in need. This means your donation will stay in the community.

I thank you in advance and look forward to seeing you in Ridgewood Park on November 9 from 1 to 3 p.m.

—James Welch, President

HRAA Elections 2009

Your Huber Ridge Area Association's annual election is fast approaching; it will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2009. The following offices will be on the ballot: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor. Anyone interested in any of these positions should contact me or any other HRAA officer before December 4.

The future of your association depends on these offices being filled. It takes a community to make a community. Resident participation is the key to a successful association; we have made a difference and will continue to do so.

Your HRAA needs residents to run for these positions to keep the HRAA going and to attend the January 8 meeting and vote.

If you have visited our website, huberridge.org, or read our quarterly newsletter, *The Herald*, you know what a difference the HRAA has made. Your support and participation are crucial for its continued existence.

Remember we (the HRAA) meet the first Thursday of each month. There you can announce your interest in any

Holiday Craft Bazaar

Westerville Masonic Temple, 130 South State Street

November 29, 9 am to 3 pm

- ★ Crafts
- ★ Gifts
- ★ Lunch Available
- ★ Never Before Seen Items
- ★ Baked Goods
- ★ New Recipe Book with Tasters
- ★ Gift Recipes in a Jar
- ★ Much More

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office or committee position. The future and projects of your HRAA are up to you. You can and do make a difference!

—James Welch, President

Honoring Those Who Are Serving/ Served Our Country

In our summer edition of *The Herald*, I asked for the community to honor year round those men and women who are serving, who have served, or who have given their lives for our country.

To honor these individuals, I ask for the name, military branch, location (unless confidential), and other relevant information you want us to post about Huber Ridge personnel. To all of you, thank you.

Honoring:

Gerald E. Shaner with over 33 years of service in the Army in World War II, Korea, and Viet Nam. Thank you! May we live lives worthy of the freedoms you gained for us.

To add your name or your loved one's name to our list of honorees, please e-mail me at president@huberridge.org or call me at 882-8959.

—James Welch, President

Can You Help?

This newsletter, a quarterly publication of the Huber Ridge Area Association, is delivered to 1,623 homes in the Ridge at the end of March, June, September, and December. Many Block Watch representatives and Executive Committee members volunteer to bring this newsletter to your front door since postage is beyond the means of our organization. (The advertisements by our neighborhood businesses cover the cost of printing the newsletter.)

We need additional volunteers to deliver *The Herald* four times a year. It's a great way to become more familiar with your neighborhood, to get some exercise, and to help

your community. If you are willing to deliver newsletters to a street (or two or three) in the Ridge, please contact Block Watch Coordinator Pam Clegg at 891-9176 or at blockwatch@huberridge.org.

Please help!

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor

Attention: Westerville City School Students

The Huber Ridge Area Association (HRAA) has many opportunities for you to fulfill your community service hours right here in your very own neighborhood! We have some very fun events coming up soon for which we need lots of volunteers. For more information, see huberridge.org on the web or e-mail Carolyn Cordray at welcome@huberridge.org.

—Carolyn Cordray, Halloween Party Coordinator

Blendon Township Has New Acting Police Chief

I just wanted to take this opportunity to let the residents of Blendon Township know that Chief Belford was called up again for active duty effective June 1, 2008, for an undetermined amount of time.

In Chief Belford's absence, I have been named Acting Chief. I wanted to make all residents aware of this change and let you know that my door is always open if you feel there is a matter you need to discuss with me. It may be best, however, due to my busy schedule to call first and set up an appointment with me. I will try my best to set an appointment with you in a timely manner.

Thank you.

—Lt. Dusty Lephart, Acting Chief, Blendon Township Police

You're Needed

This article probably will not speak to the majority of our readers, but some of us are in the stage of life where many of our friends and relatives are developing conditions which require hospitalization. Sure, we send cards and "visit"—which I have a problem understanding! Why would we "visit" when someone is sick? But we'll leave that for now. The intent of this article is to assure that everyone who has to spend even one night in the hospital has someone there to advocate for them. Everyone? Yes. That may not be you, and that's fine. But if you see that your friend or family member has no one, ask if you're needed—maybe for a little support every couple of days, maybe more, but don't walk away without knowing.

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I know, you think the doctors, nurses, and other staff are there; so why would your family member or friend need you. Believe me, they do! True, nurses and other staff are there 24 hours a day; but staffing on a general floor in the evening shift is less than the day, and the night shift is staffed even less. As for the doctors, they come in early or late and most of the time see their patients once a day. Yes, there are medical staff in the hospital 24 hours a day for urgent matters but not to respond to something that can wait until morning. You've heard about "take an aspirin and call me in the morning?"

The following thoughts and stories will expand on the above:

If you are going to help, you need to know at least who is a Registered Nurse (RN), Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), or licensed nursing assistant (used to be an aide). The RN is the primary person who is responsible for the nursing service. An RN is required by law to have her name tag display "RN." Look for it. She will listen, consider what the problem is, ask more questions, in some cases take care of whatever, and in other cases need to talk with the doctor about it. She will never leave the patient without resolution of the problem.

A friend of mine was recently in the hospital and was conversing with a “staff” member. She advised him not to take Metamucil every day because it would hurt his stomach. So he quit. He didn’t say anything to anyone until he complained to me that he was having a lot of trouble with being constipated! He told me the story; and when I asked him if she was an RN, he didn’t know! Needless to say, she was not!

Sometimes just having someone to fluff the pillows, get some water, help turn over, or get more covers means a lot to one who is too weak to do that; and I’m sorry but most of the time there aren’t enough staff to do those personal things. Too often the meal tray comes, and getting the top off the drink is impossible; but the person who brought the tray is gone. There are times when the call light just isn’t getting attention, and a little nagging at the nurses’ station is necessary. Don’t hesitate! Get someone to help. That’s what you’re there for! Take a good book; be there when you are needed and be quiet the rest of the time.

It is so important that patients understand what the doctor is saying. Persons with PhDs in English or even Communications can get lost in medical lingo. Physicians are so comfortable with the language; and although most try

to put their discussions in common terminology, it often is flecked with “odd” words. Patients are very often weak, tired, even depressed; so listening is difficult, and remembering what was said is even harder. They need someone else to listen and remember. A family member recently called me, anxious about being told he was to have a stress test the next morning. I asked why, and he said he didn’t know. The internal medicine physician said he would need it if he was to have a cardiac cath or colonoscopy or “something else,” but none of those were addressing his urinary problem—at least that he was aware of. And none of those specialists had said anything about such a test. I said, “Refuse it!” He was appalled. He said, “I can’t; they’ll be here in the morning with the cart and take me.” I said, “Not if you say you’re not going.” He said, “Can I do that?” I said, “Absolutely. It’s your body; you are of sound mind; don’t go.” He didn’t, and he was so proud of himself. The doctor wasn’t happy with him and was even more unhappy with me, but in the long run he was not scheduled for anything that would require a stress test!

That brings me to the last major point. Even though a patient is in a situation where those taking care of him or her know more about illnesses, treatments, tests, etc. than the patient, the patient is in control of his or her treatment! If a new drug is presented to be taken, question it. Understand the test you are to have, what will be done to you, and what it will show. If the patient can’t handle all of this, you’re needed!

—Joya Neff, BSN, MPH, RN, Resident Nurse

Adopting a Dog from an Animal Shelter—What You Must Know

How Much Is That Doggie in the Window?

[Editor’s note: Dr. Wendy McCullen Vermillion, the author of this article, is a former Huber Ridge resident and is currently Professor of Biological and Physical Sciences at Columbus State Community College. She also runs Ridgewood Animal Care.]

Adopting a dog from a reputable and licensed animal shelter is a wonderful way to help reduce the number of dogs that will be euthanized because they don’t have homes. Before you go, there are some things that you should consider that will help you to select the right dog for your family, home, and lifestyle.

Surprisingly, a very young shelter puppy may not be the best choice for your situation. Here are some reasons why:

- ✿ Animal shelters are very difficult places for puppies to experience, and they may suffer from mental, physical, and even emotional stress just because they have been in a shelter. Even an excellent one can be a stressful



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environment for a pup. Exposure to such stresses can weaken the immune system of a young animal and may even play an important role in shaping future behaviors.

- ❗ You may not be able to predict accurately whether a pup will get huge or stay small and portable. Will he or she require extensive grooming, or will the coat stay short and manageable? You may not be able to tell.
- ❗ The temperament of the adult dog that this pup will become is largely unknown. Once in a loving home, the environment alone may not be enough to reshape behavior.
- ❗ Lastly, the genetics of a purebred shelter pup may not be the best as most responsible breeders will not allow their clients to relinquish one of their pups to a shelter and will prevent this from occurring with a buy-back policy.

Now does all this mean you should never adopt a young puppy from a shelter? Of course not, but these are things you must be aware of. And, really, rest assured that adorable little face staring through the bars will get adopted. Young pups are in high demand.

The real prizes at shelters are the adult dogs. So many of the unknowns listed above are very obvious in the adult.

- ❗ Size, shape, and hair coat are right there in front of you. You can immediately assess whether he or she will fit in with your lifestyle, and you can also get a good idea of what the grooming requirements will be.
- ❗ You will be much more able to assess the temperament of an adult dog than you can assess that of a highly stressed puppy. While temperament tests at shelters may not be 100 percent accurate, they at least can give a reasonably good assessment of an adult dog. You can also find out if they are cat-safe, very important if you already have a feline family member!
- ❗ Interestingly, many shelters report that medium- to large-sized black dogs are often the hardest to place. Don't walk by that cage with the black Lab mix too quickly! A loving, forever friend may be waiting inside!

So, if you have decided to make room in your life for a shelter dog, what should you do to prepare yourself for the selection process? First and foremost, you should sit down as a family and think about what breeds appeal to you and your lifestyle. You can make a list of breeds you like and also equally as important the breeds that you think will not work for you. Realize that at a shelter you will most likely be selecting from mostly mixed breed dogs, but those individual breed characteristics can show through. So, if the highly dominant and fiercely loyal Chow temperament is not right for you, don't select a mixed breed that is predominantly Chow Chow (I am not picking on Chows! I love them! I'm just using the big fuzzy guys as an example!). And remember, some aspects

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of behavior may change once your new friend comes home. For example, a Golden Retriever cross may be very laid back in the shelter; but after he makes himself at home, he can be a bundle of fun-loving energy!

Take time to watch *Animal Planet* and to talk to breeders. A good resource here in Central Ohio is the Central Ohio Kennel Club. You might consider taking a knowledgeable friend with you on your selection day.

Most shelters today will be very thorough in their assessment of YOU as a potential adopter. You will be expected to provide information about your home, other pets in the home, and the people who live with you; also be prepared to provide some personal references. Some people may take offense at the process, but remember that the shelter personnel have a responsibility to place each dog into a successful home. Because a successful home is a forever home. How about yours?

—Wendy McCullen Vermillion, DVM

Water Quality and Cost

[Editor's Note: This article is the third in a series of articles written by Huber Ridge's long-time resident and unofficial historian, Almina Smock Wiebell.]

Prior to moving into their new homes, home owners received the following letter from the Huber Utilities, Inc. in July, 1961:

Welcome to the Large Family of
Huber Home Owners:

In the very near future you will be residing in one of the most modern and desirable new communities anywhere---Huber Ridge. One of the things that makes this possible is the modern up-to-date utility system that will be serving Huber Ridge. Not every one is privileged to

have such facilities. In this state less than three-fourths of the population is served by a regulated water and sewage system.

Not too many years ago community living as we know it today was quite different. But in Huber Ridge, as in all Huber communities, all modern conveniences are provided---conveniences that would have been impossible, and in some cases impossible even today in houses costing twice as much.

In Huber Heights, near Dayton, Huber Utilities has built a system that is considered by both state and county officials to be one of the best in Ohio. This system now serves over 3500 customers with the highest degree of efficiency.

Yes, suburban living will be yours in Huber Ridge for only pennies a day. Our average customer billing is \$8.00 per month by Huber Utilities. Minimum Monthly charge is \$7.00 per month total for both sewer and water service in Dayton, and it is anticipated that Huber Ridge will be the same. Thus two of the most essential items for healthful living cost only slightly more than a pack of cigarettes per day.

We of Huber Utilities congratulate you on your Huber Home purchase and look forward to serving you. We send you our



**Huber Ridge Wastewater Treatment Facility
5477 Buenos Aires Boulevard**

very best wishes for many years of happiness in your new home.

Sincerely yours,
Lee M. Nazor
Vice President

Things seemed to be going great, and then suddenly we had a serious water problem!! The water was black, not fit to drink or use. Homeowners were aware that we'd have "well" water. We just didn't realize the hardness of the water would begin to discolor all of our white clothes to gray; baby bottles were cloudy with deposits in them; pipes were beginning to get calcium deposits.

Thus, the Huber Ridge Civic Association came into being. The residents came together to get to the bottom of the problem. Trying to get in touch with Huber Utilities was quite a challenge. After learning the owner's name and phone number, contact was made. Numerous meetings followed. People came to homes to check the tap water, etc. Whatever they did at the plant seemed to take care of the drinking water problems. We residents, however, had to purchase water softeners to solve the "hard water" problem.

By 1970, we were faced with more problems. Now Huber Utilities was Ohio Utilities. The first turn off to the left off Buenos Aires Boulevard, there still is a building where at one time you went to pay your water bill. Beyond that building there were approximately 3 large round black plastic containers like cesspools located outdoors. These containers accommodated the waste from all the surrounding areas. This resulted in the following letter to the editor of *The Public Opinion* published on August 6, 1970:

Huber Ridge Stench Is Questioned

Editor, Public Opinion:

Gone with the wind----or at least temporarily is the awful



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stench from Alum Creek which permeated our area last week. Fresh air fiends have not been inhaling deeply; windows and doors have been forced shut and guests have been discouraged. For the past three years we have been subject to this unpleasant and unnecessary situation. Numerous residents complain each year; a chemical substance is added to the water and--I believe--a wind dance is performed by the responsible party or parties; we seem to be satisfied and forget all too quickly that we have a serious water pollution problem right at our own back door!

With foresight and responsible planning by all concerned; the excess effluent, etc. poured into the creek causing the visible bloated dead fish, awful stench, not to mention the germs and disease which accompany this condition; this situation could have been prevented!

The Franklin County Board of Health, the Ohio State Board of Health, the Ohio Utilities company, as well as the Wildlife Division of the Natural Resources Department have and are continuing to investigate this situation. The facts, findings and steps we can take to remedy same will be forthcoming through the Civic Association Ridgerunner Newsletter.

ALMINA SMOCK

Meetings continued, promises continued, and in May 1972 Al Harness of the Ohio Utilities Company came to the Civic Association meeting. He discussed water quality, sewerage, and construction of a water plant to enlarge facilities at that time.

At some point a water treatment plant was built and then a larger one in recent years which took care of the hard water problem; we were able to remove our water softeners.

In 1997 to 1998, reverse osmosis was introduced. In 2007, a phosphate addition was approved.

After all these years, we still have water problems and outlandish rates! Over the years, many people have put a lot of time and effort into trying to correct these problems. More recently, Jim Welch, President of the Huber Ridge Area Association, has devoted much time and effort to this cause.

—Almina Wiebell, Neighbor

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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

Support the Work of the HRAA! Join Today!

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.

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 Party | <input type="checkbox"/> OAW Water Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Committee |



October 2
October 25
November 4
November 6
November 9
December 4
December 12
January 8

HRAA Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.

HRAA Halloween Party in Ridgewood Park from 6 to 8 p.m.

Election Day

HRAA Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.

HRAA Clothing Drive in Ridgewood Park from 1 to 3 p.m.

HRAA Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.

Deadline for Entries in the HRAA Holiday Lights and Decorations Contest

HRAA Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m. NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!

Participate in your community's activities!
Help make Huber Ridge a better place to live!