A Quarterly Publication for
the Members and Potential Members of
the Huber Ridge Area Association
Vol. 4, No. 4, Autumn 2009

The Herald

How important is finding the best deal to you?

Trustee Question & Answer Session, October 6, 6:30 p.m., Faith Covenant Church, 3607 Dempsey Road

Did you ever spend one hour, two hours, or more searching for the best deal on internet service, package deals, appliances, you name it? So often we spend our time searching for the best deal because we want to be satisified with our purchase, we want to know we paid the best price, and ultimately we want to avoid buyer's remorse. When it comes to choosing who will govern us, we sometimes neglect to spend the same amount of time and diligence as we do on purchases.

Our Trustees make important decisions that affect our quality of life, property values, budget, taxes, and safety. Trustees decide such things as road and curb maintenance schedules, who our trash haulers will be, code enforcement and support, budget items, expenses, hiring and firing of personnel, cemetery and senior center concerns, etc.

On October 6 at 6:30 p.m. at Faith Covenant Church, we have an opportunity to search for the "best deal" (so to speak) to represent us. **Two Trustee positions will be filled by the top vote-getters this November.** Let us take two hours of our time to hear what Trustee candidates have to say for themselves at this Question and Answer session sponsored by your HRAA. You may ask your own questions or submit your questions for our moderator, Carolyn Cordray, to ask that evening. Question forms will be available on a table that evening, or you may print one off our website, huberridge.org, and bring it with you to the Q & A.

This is the time of year we will all see a lot of political signs promoting a name. Political signs do not tell you about the person's character, goals, interest in the Township, attitudes, experience, or accomplishments. Come listen and take note of what you hear. See which candidates attend and which ones do not attend this event. Let us avoid "buyer's remorse." Please make time for this Q & A so you can be an educated voter. Tell your neighbors; come together—save gas; but come so our township will have the "best deal." ALL Blendon Township residents and interested parties are welcome.

—Pam Clegg, HRAA Trustee Q & A Coordinator

Candidate Profiles

Each of the four candidates for Blendon Township Trustee—Stew Flaherty, Janice D. Heichel, Alex Stallings, and James Welch—was invited to submit written answers to two questions posed by the HRAA Executive Committee. Answers to each question were to be restricted to 500 characters (not counting spaces) and were not altered, edited, corrected, nor evaluated. Answers which exceeded the 500 character limit were cut off at that point and ended with an ellipsis (…). Trustee candidates were also asked to supply the following personal information: address, age, occupation, and education and were invited to submit a photograph.

These profiles appear on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter.

Candidates were also invited to submit paid political advertising if they so desired. The HRAA Executive Committee does not endorse political candidates as a matter of policy.

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor

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James Welch
5460 Acapulco Place
882-8959
president@huberridge.org

Vice President
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5445 Acapulco Place
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Joya Neff
3615 Stockholm Road
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membership@huberridge.org

Park Cleanup Day Coordinator
Lori Mann
3510 Rangoon Drive
882-3795
beautification@huberridge.org

STEW FLAHERTY

What are your 5 priorities <u>for 2010</u> to improve the Township?

1) Develop a long term solution for water and sewer issues in order to provide a cost effective service for township residents
2) Continue to look for ways to enhance property values through improving our neighborhoods, commercial areas and parks
3) Enhance police and safety services
4) Continue to implement sound management policies that insure fiscal responsibility and cost controls in the operation of the township
5) Develop opportunities to utilize regional relationships and a cooperative approach to insure economies of scale for addressing Blendon infrastructure issues

What have you accomplished for the Township in the last 2 years?

1) Used leadership and business skills to improve township operations
2) Helped develop and enforce the property maintenance code for neighborhood rejuvenation (i.e. demolition of Makassar property)
3) Oversaw building of the new cemetery office (20% below estimates)
4) Worked on infrastructure improvements including: Long term water rate solution; Ridgewood Park improvements: new equipment, resurfaced parking lot, storm gutters on Buenos Aires
5) Actively involved in and sponsored community events ranging from HRAA sponsored events to the Ike cleanup to the Memorial Day picnic

Address: 4433 Smothers Road, Westerville, OH 43081
Age: 61
Occupation: Financial Consultant/Principle, Flaherty Consulting
Education: Bachelor's Degree, Denison University, Granville, OH

JAN HEICHEL

What are your 5 priorities <u>for 2010</u> to improve the Township?

1. Closely monitor Rumpke Waste Services to assure they are living up to the terms of their contract and that any/all complaints are addressed courteously, professionally & promptly to a positive conclusion
2. Continue efforts to find a resolution for our rising water rates
3. Work diligently to improve our neighborhood's appearance, specifically focus on empty Huber Rental properties
4. Continue to provide the highest quality police and fire protection to assure the safety of our children and families
5. Utilize sound business practices when spending our tax dollars

What have you accomplished for the Township in the last 2 years?

The HRAA set parameters of the last 2 years. This is not a fair picture.

Dedication & love for a community cannot be measured by recent activities of one seeking office. It is a measure of the long steady commitment to a belief that your community is your home & loving your neighbor guides daily lives.

While my opponents have lived in Blendon Township for a relatively short time, I have lived here for 35 years. My husband, Tom Heichel, recently retired as the Blendon Twp. Police Chief. Our children attended Huber Ridge School. We love this community & made serving the citizens a central part of our lives.

Address: 5576 Santiago Drive, Westerville, OH 43081
Age: [no response]
Occupation: Employed full time with J.P.Morgan Chase Bank for the past 10 years as a Financial Service Advisor
Education: Graduated from Career Academy College, Columbus, OH; Degree: Associate of Applied Science Degree, Medical Technology

ALEX STALLINGS

What are your 5 priorities for 2010 to improve the Township?

A) Continue to support a full service police department.
B) Increase the access to and role of the senior center in our community.
C) Continue to support and expand upon the code enforcement program.
D) Continue to fight Ohio American Water and hopefully move toward a future where our water is provided from another source.
E) Sidewalks on Executive Parkway, Sunbury Road, Dempsey Road and Westerville Road and other infrastructure improvements.

What have you accomplished for the Township in the last 2 years?

I am Vice President of my Civic Association. We upgraded the township computer system. We auctioned off the property the township took over on Makassar Drive. We fixed numerous road issues. We fixed drainage and electrical issues at Ridgewood Park. We formed a consortium with other townships to fight Ohio American Water and passed a resolution opposing the current request. I set up a meeting for residents of the township with the Ohio Consumers Council and State Representatives.

Address: 4051 Beauty Rose Ave
Age: 30
Occupation: Assistant Manager, Capital Lighting; Trustee, Blendon Township
Education: Currently enrolled at Western Governors University, Microsoft Certified Professional, Westerville North High 1997

JAMES WELCH

What are your 5 priorities for 2010 to improve the Township?

- Continue to lead the fight against OAWC's constant rate increases and poor customer service. Explore every avenue to achieve the rates and service residents expect and deserve
- Address irregular signage and weeds growing from sewer drops/curbs to promote a consistent appearance in the township
- Craft and implement a plan for deteriorating infrastructure identifying a schedule of ongoing repairs.
- Facilitate greater interaction within the township by more extensive use of existing media
- Continue to seek face-to-face resident feedback by establishing venues for communication

What have you accomplished for the Township in the last 2 years?

- President of the HRAA for 4+ years
- Organized OAWC opposition
- Maintained an informative and up to date website which has received the highest honor by Neighborhood Link
- Developed a dialog with Franklin County pertaining to health and home maintenance issues; Huber Ridge now has the Franklin County Auditors highest ranking
- Inspired the township to join our initiative of success and efforts toward improving the community by adopting a home maintenance code and enforcement officer
- As president, I have demonstrated the leadership, knowledge, devotion, ability to be your trustee

Address: 5460 Acapulco Place, Westerville, OH 43081
Age: 44
Occupation: 27 years as an automotive technician
Education: Graduate, Grove City High School; Graduate Paul C. Hayes Technical School—Automotive Mechanics

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To the Editor:

The people of Blendon Township got a raw deal when Judge Eric Brown "appointed" our new trustee to replace retiring Township Trustee Bill Bates this last May.

Trustees Jerry Ward and Stewart Flaherty were first in line to choose Bill Bates' replacement. Just like the last time we were faced with a Trustee leaving office prior to term expiration in 2006 (Trustees Bates and Ward deciding at that time), the two Trustees could not agree on a replacement. Two people with two very different agendas not agreeing should surprise no one. That is why there is a process in place of deferring judgment to a judge.

This time, Judge Eric Brown, who received letters of recommendation from Township residents for at least one candidate as well as a letter of recommendation from former Trustee Bill Bates, apparently either refused to do his job or was incompetent to do it. It is perplexing to me that the letters of recommendation were not convincing enough for the judge to determine the will of the people. Maybe there were too many conflicting opinions. Regardless, he had the resumes of each candidate and, like any person responsible for hiring, should have been able to determine trustee qualifications and should have made the decision independently.

Instead, as I understand it, he called Trustees Ward and Flaherty and told them they had to come up with someone they could agree on. The Trustees apparently could not agree on any of the five applicants, so they came up with someone they could live with for the next several months—until voters get their say in November. Our present trustees chose someone who had not even applied for the open position.

The additional irony of all this is that prior to the appointment, a Public Notice dated and posted May 1, 2009, on the Blendon Township website stated, "The Trustees believe it very important to remain fair and impartial to all applicants. Any appointment they might make could be viewed as an endorsement for that person in the November election. Both Mr. Ward and Mr. Flaherty believe that it is in the voters' best interests to have the campaigns conducted without the perception of such an endorsement." This was presented as their reason for deferring the decision to Judge Brown.

Because Judge Brown "appointed" in this manner, I cannot help concluding that he in essense "forced" our trustees to be unfair and partial in their selection and ultimately "forced" an endorsement.

People of Blendon Township will have an opportunity to get a better deal by deciding for themselves who are the best candidates for Trustee. The Huber Ridge Area Association is sponsoring a Trustee Candidate Question and Answer Session October 6, 6:30 p.m., at Faith Covenant Church, 3607 Dempsey Road. Details at huberridge.org. **The two hours spent at the Q & A will make a difference in your next 35,000 hours of township living.**

—Pam Clegg, Neighbor

To the Editor:

Of the four candidates for Blendon Township Trustee on the November ballot, it is our opinion that two of them are best qualified to serve.

Stewart Flaherty has demonstrated his knowledge and judgment of the job, bringing years of previous service with the City of Westerville. The only other candidate with extensive experience and community leadership is, of course, Jim Welch. Jim has dedicated hundreds of hours of his time and talent to the township, including the Huber Ridge area, whose association he has guided for over three years. Jim has worked on our behalf as an unpaid citizen to improve our lives. From taking on the water company to planning numerous special events, Jim has continuously consulted with top state officials and legislators on our behalf, and is known and trusted for his expertise on water issues.

It is now time to place Jim in an elected position of

township leadership so he can continue to guide us in the future. On November 3, we endorse James Welch and Stewart Flaherty for Blendon Township Trustees.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas G. Wiebell
Almina Smock-Wiebell
Sharon Ricker

To the Editor:

It was mystifying to me (to say the least) that my candidate for Blendon Township Trustee was overlooked by our County Probate Judge Eric Brown when it came time to replace Trustee Bill Bates, who resigned on March 31, 2009. Jim Welch has lived "in the Ridge" since 2001; and in that short time, he restarted our HRAA (Huber Ridge Area Association) and for the past 4 plus years has served as our President! He is not just a figurehead! Jim Welch leads by example. He began with a very simple agenda. He organized the Ridgewood Park Cleanup Day that annually makes our park something for which we can all be proud. Jim Welch has personally spent countless hours in cleanup and fixup. He has helped organize our community garage sale, Halloween party at the Park for our children, and the annual neighborhood block party; and he is present at all these functions.

Under Jim Welch's direction, our HRAA website has been upgraded to the point that we have received the highest honor given out by Neighborhood Link. The Franklin County Auditor's Office, which had previously rated our community as unfavorable now promotes the community with the highest rating possible (a neighborhood that is up and coming). He has reinvigorated our Block Watch program, unifying our citizens to insure all voices are represented. He has cleaned up our community and especially our disgusting grassy yards and older junker cars.

We now have a Block Watch program that works and Street Reps who insure all citizens are represented! His effort to clean up our community resulted last year in our Trustees finally hiring a Code Enforcement Officer for the entire Township—making a huge difference, as anyone can easily see!

Jim Welch has been our voice in the numerous fights with Ohio American Water concerning our rate increases (once testifying for 3+ hours) prior to PUCO's final decision! He has helped save us all steeper increases. Even after not receiving the Trustee appointment, Jim Welch did not stop working for us! He is leading the fight against Ohio American Water's newest rate increase again!

During his time in the Ridge, he has attended 90+ percent of all Trustee meetings and is Blendon Township's watch dog on everything from street maintenance to code issues.

Everything I've mentioned in this letter of endorsement was done by Jim Welch because he is dedicated to his community and is interested in easing our financial burdens. Why should you give Jim Welch your support? Most of his efforts these past 4 years have enhanced our property values, and he has done all of these things as a committed and concerned volunteer. Imagine if he is elected, what a really big difference he could make as a Blendon Township Trustee. My wife and I ask all Blendon Township citizens to cast your vote for Jim Welch—and while you are in the voting booth, cast a vote for Stew Flaherty. I promise you "they can and will make a difference," and we'll all be glad you did.

—Bill Riggs, 32-year resident of Huber Ridge

To the Editor:

As a past resident of Blendon Township, specifically the Huber Ridge-Glengary Woods area, I have a lasting care and concern for this wonderful part of Westerville. I recently became aware that an election is coming up to fill a seat on the board of Township Trustees. I see this as a unique opportunity to voice my support for a candidate that I feel will do an excellent job and bring new and welcome ideas to my old neighborhood. And so I am writing this letter in support of the candidacy of Jan Heichel for Blendon Township Trustee.

I do not give my support to candidates running for any office lightly. In fact, this is the first time I have written a

letter such as this. But I have had the distinct privilege of knowing Jan Heichel and her family for thirty years, and over this time I have come to know her and her values very well. To say she is honest, conscientious, hard-working, and highly motivated is just not enough. Rather, I think it is important to say that Jan truly cares about the township. She and husband Tom have raised their family here, and have seen the area evolve in many ways. Jan has the background and the experience to bring many positive changes that will ensure that Blendon Township will continue to be the great place it is, and she will work toward making it the greater place it can be. I know that if elected, her leadership and service will be extremely valuable to Blendon Township.

—Wendy McCullen-Vermillion, DVM

Déjà vu OAWC

Here they go again! Ohio American Water Company (OAWC) has filed for yet another substantive rate increase. Before I go into details, I want to say that this is the third increase in as many years that I have opposed and led the opposition to defeat. We have had some good results as well as not so good. During these oppositions, we have placed printed inserts in *The Herald*, had yard signs made and displayed throughout our communities advertising meetings and hearings. The costs to do this are not minimal, but we have been able to contain these costs as well as keeping you informed of the progress and how to oppose the increases. I have been able to acquire funds that have enabled your HRAA to make and post these signs and pay for the cost of the inserts. The donation to the Association to fight the increases has enabled us to use the media resources listed without using your membership dues, leaving your membership dues to go back into the community. For each increase, Mr. John Dragoo of Dragoo and Associates, Blendon Square Apartments, has donated $1,000 to the HRAA to offset the cost of and help with the opposition. Blendon Square Apartments are part of the Huber Ridge area and the HRAA. They are master metered, meaning Blendon Square pays one bill for all 212 apartments. To Dragoo and Associates, thank you for your support!

In June 2009, OAWC filed a request with the PUCO to increase rates for all of its approximately 48,000 residential customers in Ohio. This request is the third in three years and may increase residential customers' water and sewer bills for each of the next four years if the proposed step increases are approved by the PUCO.

OAWC has asked for the approval to collect an additional $25 million over four years for all customer classes. In addition to the increase, OAWC has proposed to increase the current $9.51 monthly customer service charge to $15.87 by 2013. OAWC has also requested to establish an unavoidable expense recovery charge in 2013. This charge would allow OAWC to adjust for any increase or decrease in gross receipts, taxes, waste disposal, purchased power expense, purchased water cost, chemical cost, uncollectible expense, and any expenses due to decisions rendered by a regulatory body, i.e., PUCO, Ohio EPA.

OAWC also has asked to create an infrastructure replacement cost recovery charge in 2013. This charge is similar to the existing system improvement charge already available to OAWC under Ohio law. This proposal would allow OAWC to collect costs for improvements made to water lines, hydrants, mains, lift stations, valves, and meters. It would also allow OAWC to collect the costs of these improvements with interest—which is not allowed under Ohio law—and collect expenses for major plant work up to $3 million, which is only allowed for consideration in a rate case.

Estimated typical monthly water bills for the Huber Ridge water treatment plant based on 7 CCF will be:

	current bill	April 2010	April 2011	April 2012	April 2013
water	$53.17	$67.58	$81.63	$86.60	$91.05
wastewater	57.82	68.64	$74.54	$76.20	$78.92
total bill	$110.99	$136.22	$156.17	$162.80	$169.97

This chart shows what the rates would be if the OAWC

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increase request was granted by the PUCO in full. The preceding chart was calculated by the OCC.

If the proposed increase is acceptable to you, then there is no need to read on. For those of you who are disgusted with these frequent increases, OAWC's monopoly of our communities, outrageous water and sewer bills, OAWC's single handed ability to degrade the same neighborhoods they serve, then read on.

Again, we will oppose this increase, but this year is different. We need to organize and oppose this increase with a bigger campaign than the last two increases. This application for increase has spawned more resistance than ever. Our collection opposition for the last two increases coupled with this increase has finally caught the attention of some of our elected officials both locally and at the state level. Our legislators are looking at old laws and what can be updated or changed. There are numerous other things being looked at by our local, county, and state offices. Currently I cannot elaborate on these things.

You, the residents/customers, made the difference in the last two increases. You made some noise and now have brought some attention to OAWC's frequent and large increases. As a community, we need to write and attend the PUCO public hearing as before but in bigger numbers. We need to write our elected officials and let them know enough is enough, also. There is an insert in this issue of *The Herald* with all the contact information. If this opposition is not our biggest, then other avenues that are being looked into may not work.

Your letters should be personalized this time. For example, with this increase, I will have to choose between my water bill and my prescriptions. The water prices have lowered my home's value as I cannot afford to landscape and so on. Write about any experiences with OAWC: customer service, water quality issues, etc. You have made a difference in the past; let's continue the momentum as others are now joining, and legislators are watching.

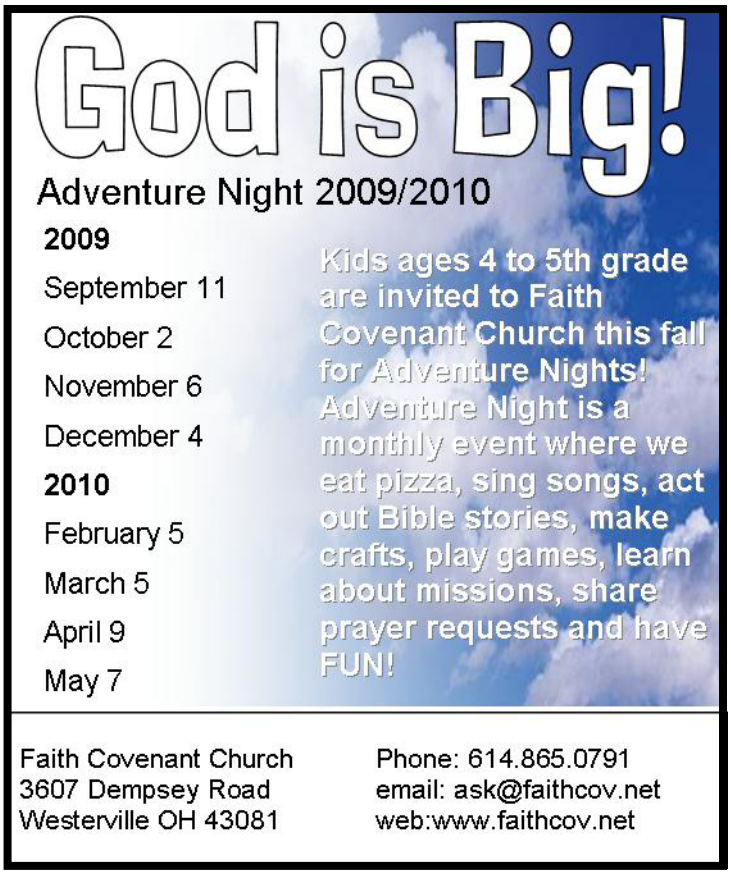
Several local/state communities have banded together and are opposing the OAWC in other ways legally. There is now a statewide website with up-to-date news and facts: fightthehikeohio.org. Check it frequently as we move forward. There will be a link from our website, huberridge.org. This is your community—your home. You have made a difference.

The following is the PUCO tentative case time line:

October 2009.....PUCO staff report to be filed
November 2009.....Testimony and objections to be filed
February 2010.....A final decision by the PUCO expected
March 2010 .....Any applications for rehearing to be filed
April 2010.....A decision on any applications for rehearing expected

As always, you can contact me at any time with questions, comments, and concerns!

—Jim Welch, President



Rumpke—Township Trash Carrier

Last December, the Blendon Township Trustees approved a 1-year contract with Rumpke to provide trash disposal, recycling, and yard waste removal for Blendon Township residents. This one-year contract was to fill the year before Blendon Township was to join the trash consortium. This year a bid package was put out, and four trash carriers took out bid packages including Local Waste and Rumpke. Only one trash carrier returned a bid—Rumpke. On August 5, 2009, at the Blendon Township Trustee meeting, John Giamarco presented the Trustees with a new contract from Rumpke. Trustee Jerry Ward made a motion to accept the notice of acceptance for Rumpke, which includes authorizing Blendon Township to enter into a contract with Rumpke for the contract period for a 5-year consortium pricing with a 2-year option at the price of $15.64 per month. Trustee Stewart Flaherty seconded the motion. All three Trustees voted in favor of the motion.

I have received numerous calls from residents in the last 6 months regarding trash pickup problems. I have handled or forwarded the information as permitted. The Trustees have delegated the Blendon Township Director of Code Enforcement, Bryan Rhoads, to handle all trash complaints and compliments. If you are experiencing problems with Rumpke, please feel free to call Bryan Rhoads at 614-839-2013 (office) or email him at bryan.rhoads@blendontwp.org. As always, you can call me regarding anything you have questions about.

—Jim Welch, President

Block Watch Street Representatives

Area A

3361 **Arnett Court**
Bill and Gloria Cochenour
882-2639

3525 **Dahlgreen Drive**
Mindy March
523-3184

3360 **Dempsey Road**
Chuck Marlow
895-3225

3403 **Dempsey Road**
Anita Heppner
307-4998

3473 **Dempsey Road**
Era McMahon
891-5312

3378 **Hunt Club Rd., N.**
Emily Patterson
899-3742

3390 **Montford Road, N.**
Damien Brandon
905-9576

6365 **Montford Road, W.**
Travis and Jeannie Mackowiak
818-9220

3374 **Vickers Drive**
Jennifer Newton
634-1473

Area B

3744 **Balboa Court**
Sheldon Schoen
882-9603

3815 **Balboa Place**
Karen Boley
523-3006

6101 **Batavia Road**
Debb Candow
794-3038

3636 **Bolamo Drive**
Brian and Jaclyn Davis
557-3407

5084 **Paris Bl., N.**
Joellen Lugin
882-0030

6037 **Paris Bl., N.**
Karl and Kathy Austin
563-0711

Area C

3484 **Brazzaville Road**
Tiffany and Jubal Wagner
794-3780

3515 **Canberra Court**
Edwin England
794-3049

5903 **Dakar Road, E.**
George King

3463 **Paris Boulevard**
Wayne and Jenny Carr
899-7373

3510 **Rangoon Drive**
Byron and Lori Mann
882-3795

3505 **Saigon Drive**
Jim and Amber Chill*
882-4220

Area D

5971 **Bangasi Road**
Paul and Robin Wagner
392-0091

5943 **Bangasi Road**
Melanie Kopacsi

3575 **Karikal Drive**
Anna Grant
891-1562

3582 **Karikal Drive**
Janet Brown*
882-8684

3614 **Makassar Drive**
Pam Clegg
891-9176

3480 **Manila Drive**
Matt and Jackie Shumaker
895-8184

Area E

5788 **Buenos Aires Bl.**
Lynn Hays
599-3647

3688 **Caracas Drive**
Barbara Muldrew
818-2712

3734 **Caracas Drive**
Eric and Carolyn Cordray
882-1310

5785 **Montevideo Drive**
Erika and Michael Schlaegel
948-5294

3658 **Panama Drive**
Kathie Butler
794-1815

3677 **Paris Boulevard**
Patricia Spencer
895-0845

5784 **Varadero Drive**
Beth and Jeff Ralph
891-3905

5865 **Varadero Drive**
Trisha and Ed Purcell
581-0923

Area F

5455 **Acapulco Place**
Lou Dunbar
882-0376

5529 **Buenos Aires Bl.**
John Harris
946-2091

5520 **Copenhagen Drive**
Bill and June Riggs
890-6070

5584 **Copenhagen Drive**
Richard Rathkopf
776-1230

5625 **Madrid Drive**
Ralph and Judy Barrell
882-5298

3599 **Madrid Drive**
Kathy Ridgway
899-9690

5561 **Oslo Drive**
Sharon Ricker*
891-1881

3315 **Panama Drive**
Betsy Briggs
203-5404

3578 **Stockholm Road**
Leslie Jordan
823-6496

Area G

5680 **Bashaw Drive**
Cheri Gray
899-0785

5663 **Bashaw Drive**
Brent Sheffer
818-9324

3668 **Managua Drive**
Andrea Wei
890-8187

3705 **Managua Drive**
Frances Corkrean
890-1825

3661 **Mexico Avenue**
Michelle Baum
895-9601

5598 **Montevideo Drive**
Jonathan and Megan Howard
302-4990

5652 **Natalie Court**
Amy McCarthy
899-7859

5664 **Natalie Court**
Christie Walker
392-0468

3686 **Santiago Drive**
Daisy and Kenny White
948-0635

5601 **Spohn Drive**
Robin Thomas
891-2722

5614 **Spohn Drive**
Raelena Robinson
895-2943

Area H

Blendon Square Apts.
Nick Sabo
*Area Representative

To join Block Watch, contact Pam Clegg, blockwatch@huber-ridge.org; 891-9176.

Election of 2010 HRAA Officers

At the general meeting on Thursday, November 5, HRAA members present will elect a Nominating Committee of at least three members in good standing. This committee will present the names of candidates for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor at the general meeting on Thursday, December 3—one month before the HRAA annual meeting on January 7. Nominations including self-nominations from the floor may be made at the December 3 meeting and will be published in the winter 2010 issue of *The Herald*.

Please consider supporting your community by serving as an HRAA officer or coordinator, as a Nominating Committee member, or as a Block Watch area or street representative! You are needed!

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor

Reward!

A few months ago, the HRAA Executive Committee sat down and talked about some of the goals we would like to accomplish to make our neighborhood a better place in which to live. We came up with quite an extensive list. In fact, there are so many ideas that our committee of nine cannot possibly implement them without you! With more than 1,600 households in our area, we know there are many gifted and talented people out there. Are you an organizer? Are you a writer? Do you have the gift or desire to help others? Have you always wanted to be a part of something that makes a difference? This is your chance!

We need people to

- ✓ be part of a committee that will organize the fight against yet another increase by our water company
- ✓ sell ads for our quarterly newsletter
- ✓ write articles for the newsletter
- ✓ be part of a committee to audit the treasury
- ✓ organize a possible "Helping Hands" teen group who will help those not physically able to help themselves
- ✓ spearhead a winter fest in January or February when there isn't much going on
- ✓ create a neighborhood directory or calendar
- ✓ organize a run or bike-a-thon to raise money for a bike path connection to Ridgewood Park from the Westerville bike path.

Do you know anyone who would like to speak at one of our HRAA meetings? Maybe **you** would like to. Why did I name this article "Reward!"? Because the rewards are unbeatable when you can help others and your neighborhood and community at large. Help us help you by volunteering your time, money and/or talents to help make our community even better. Elections will be coming up in the next few months for new officers of the HRAA. It would be great to have several candidates for each office. As HRAA President Jim Welch always says, "You **can** and **do** make a difference!"

If you would like to volunteer for any of the above projects or you have more ideas we can work on, contact any of the HRAA officers. Our addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses are on the front page. We are waiting to hear from you!

—Kathie Butler, Secretary

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Summer Sales Bloom in the Ridge

Home sales seem to be on the upswing this year compared to last. The Huber Ridge Area Association would like to officially welcome new residents who bought homes in the Ridge earlier this summer.

May Sales:

James Martini, 3694 Caracas Dr.

June Sales:

Nicholas J. Bergh, 3701 Paris Blvd.
Tiffaney A. Ritchie and Chad E. Laman, 5923 Bangasi Rd.
Doreen M. Lafferty, 5967 Bangasi Rd.
Jimmy A. McCombs, 3486 Vienna Ct.
U. S. Bank, NA, 3576 Dempsey Rd.
Amy M. Fanning, 3350 Vickers Dr.
Lori M. Williams, 3715 Panama Dr.
Courtney T. Sebring and Daniel L. Turner, 3409 Paris Blvd.
Cody A. and Rachel L. Wolfe, 3563 Karikal Dr.

July Sales:

Ashley D. Schaefer and Jason A. Stoltz, 3658 Manila Dr.
Krista L. Phelps, 5588 Copenhagen Dr.
Sara A. Sackett, 3605 W. Carthage Ct.
Heather E. Rumage, 3496 Saigon Dr.
Justin R. Smith and Rae Ann Zugschwert, 3686 Mexico Ave.

August Sales:

Andrea L. Scheiber, 3544 Karikal Dr.
Wesley A. and Lydia R. Sherrer, 3495 Rangoon Dr.
Rebecca Feurer, 5507 Oslo Dr.
Nationstar Mortgage LLC, 6294 Carthage Dr.
Janice L. Snyder, 3545 Makassar Dr.
Muwafek Abdullah, 5594 Natalie Ct.
RM Group LLC, 3460 Paris Blvd.
Peter Peer, 3549 Panama Dr.
David and Susan K. Tupper, 3695 Batavia Ct.

The HRAA would like to welcome all of you at one of our association meetings held the first Thursday each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Blendon Township Senior Center on Hempstead Rd.

—Carolyn Cordray, Activities Coordinator

Household Member of the Quarter

We are proud to introduce our second Honored Family—Arthur, Jr., and Linda Van Tassel and Gidget, their 2-year-old Lhasa Apso, the "pink lady" of the house. They are also the first Honored Family in Glengary Heights as they have owned their home at 3641 Manila for 40 years.

Linda's family grew up in the Linden area of Columbus while Arthur was from Westerville. They were both employed at Lazarus when they met. He had just returned from Vietnam, and she was a recent high school graduate.

When they moved to the Huber area, their son, Robert, was just 11 months old; and their apartment was just a bit too small. Robert and his wife, Kris, live in Delaware. Arthur, III, lives in Westerville; and he and his fiancée are planning to be married soon. Both Arthur and Linda have siblings; Arthur, a sister; and Linda, a brother and sister, so they are looking forward to having grandchildren!

At the time they moved into the Ridge, there were only a few homes on their street; and many of those families are still there. They are a very close neighborhood where "everyone looks out after everyone," and they used the word *respect* to describe the way they treat each other. Linda said she has never been afraid to stay alone while Arthur worked the second and third shifts. It was during this part of our conversation that they extended many compliments on the way the Ridge has improved in the last few years, naming specifically the influence that Huber Ridge Bl❀❀ms has had in encouraging neighbors to landscape and beautify their homes. They noted, also, the improvements Bryan Rhoads has done as Director of Code Enforcement.

Linda is employed with J. P. Morgan Chase in the foreclosure department and has just 3 years to retirement. Arthur was a machinist with Columbus Auto Parts for 23 years until it changed management and he "retired." He then worked 20 years with the Westerville City School system and formally retired last year.

When we talked of hobbies, Linda shared that she had always enjoyed writing, especially children's stories. She had written stories when their boys were in Huber Ridge Elementary School; so it was natural that in the 1980s, during a TV program which didn't have her interest, the words "Honky Tonk Fever" inspired her to write a song by that name. Shortly after that, she saw a Nashville ad for writers to submit their work. She sent "Honky Tonk Fever" in, and it was a winner! She was guided through the legal process of having it copyrighted when, shortly after, it was put to music and became a hit in the mid-1980s.

When the hobbies subject was directed to Arthur, he quietly said, "Fishing and NASCAR." Fishing didn't elicit much enthusiasm, but I could tell NASCAR was his passion. Only until I dug a little did he share that he has a NASCAR room! He described it as full of die-cast cars, flags, souvenirs of all kinds, and items he just called "stuff." He did share that he had followed Mark Martin and especially Jeff Gordon and had a great deal of his "stuff." He looked sad when he told us that he had lost some of his Jeff Gordon treasures (then "stuff" became "treasures") when their oldest son moved out.

You may have an opportunity to meet Linda and Arthur this winter. It was their idea to celebrate those who have been in the Ridge 25 years or more. The Executive Committee thought it was a fantastic idea! Thanks to the Van Tassels!

—Joya Neff, Membership Coordinator

In Service to Our Country

Let's thank

✯ Gerald E. Shaner with over 33 years of service in the Army in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam

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- Specialist Mark Smock serving with the 342nd Military Police in Iraq since December 2008
- Sgt. John K. Harris with service in the 37 IBCT Army National Guard in Kuwait from January 5, 2008 to December 7, 2008
- Lt. John Shinaberry currently completing pilot training in the Air Force after having graduated a year ago from the United States Air Force Academy.

—Jim Welch, President

Were You There?

Labor Day Parade Coordinator Carolyn Cordray and HRAA President Jim Welch with Some of the Parade Participants on September 7

Huber Ridge Community Social

The Huber Ridge Parent Teacher Association would like to invite the community to our first Community Social to be held at Huber Ridge Elementary School (5757 Buenos Aires Boulevard) on October 1, 2009, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The students of Huber Ridge Elementary—with support of family, friends, and neighbors—raised over $35,000 toward a walking trail that was completed this summer. Barbara Wallace, principal at Huber Ridge Elementary, will be hosting a dedication ceremony to celebrate this success. "It is our hope that the community is able to enjoy this walking trail located around the baseball diamond and playgrounds while our children play," Mrs. Wallace said.

Faith Covenant Church has offered to play music for this event that people of all ages will enjoy. We will also be joined by the Blendon Township Police Department and the Westerville Fire Department. The children will be able to meet with officers and firefighters to discuss safety and see a police car and fire truck close up. Huber Ridge Apple P.T.A. will be serving free ice cream and will be selling raffle tickers ($.50 each or 3/$1.00) for many great and fun prizes. They will also be available to discuss volunteer opportunities and school levy information.

Don't miss this chance to meet your neighbors and children's new friends! Please join us on October 1.

Bring this article to the Community Social to receive a free raffle ticket!
Name and Street_____

—Raelena Robinson, Vice President, Huber Ridge P.T.A.

HRAA Hosts 4th Annual Halloween Shindig

The HRAA hopes you're planning to attend the 4th annual Halloween party at Ridgewood Park on Saturday, October 24, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission to the event this year will be free for HRAA members whose $15 annual membership to the Huber Ridge Area Association is paid and who are members in good standing. For all others, admission will be $1 per person ages 4 and over. For children ages 3 and under, there will be no admission charge. If you are interested in becoming an HRAA member and beginning to enjoy the benefits of membership such as the free admission

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to all HRAA sponsored events, please contact Joya Neff at membership@huberridge.org. A fun-filled family evening at a bargain price any way you look at it!

A new aspect has been added to this year's festivities in that the HRAA is going to collect new (not used) winter hats and mittens to benefit the children at Huber Ridge Elementary School. We learned from Barbara Wallace, principal at the school, that numerous children arrive at school without these essential items throughout the winter; and the school simply can't provide them for all children who need them. Members donating a hat or mittens will receive two free raffle tickets. Non-HRAA members donating a hat or mittens will receive free admission to this event.

Once again, the Halloween party will feature the popular haunted woods, great food, fun games, hayrides, a bonfire, and terrific raffles! There are a couple of new events to be added this year as well that we're sure will be hits. Be sure to bring a little extra cash to buy raffle tickets as they will be $1 each or $5 for 6 tickets. You won't want to miss out on this one!

A big successful event like this party takes a lot of different things to make it fun and great for everyone. We are in need of some donated items for the raffle, prizes, food, etc. Additionally, there are many opportunities to take part by way of volunteering your time while at the party. If you're a student in Westerville Schools, the HRAA has traditionally been able to offer you the opportunity to earn your community service credit by working at this event. Please contact Carolyn Cordray to find out how you can help do your part to make this party great again this year. You can reach Carolyn at 882-1310 or at activities@huberridge.org. This event is self-funded and not a fundraiser for the HRAA so all donations go toward covering the costs of this neighborhood get-together. Please do your part and join the fun!

—Carolyn Cordray, Activities Coordinator

Holiday Lights and Decorations Contest

The HRAA is again sponsoring the Holiday Lights and Decorations Contest this coming December. This will be the second year that the HRAA has sponsored this event.

The Feeney residence at 5588 Buenos Aires was the winner of our first contest. Any residence in Huber Ridge that is decorated with holiday lights and decorations is automatically entered, and no registration is required. Additional information will be available on the Association's website as we approach the holiday season.

—Sharon Ricker, Holiday Lights and Decorations Contest Coordinator

HRAA President Jim Welch Presenting Resident Chris Feeney with an Award for the 2008 Holiday Lights and Decorations Contest

Ridge-a-Palooza Lots-o-Fun!

A new celebration of spring came to the Ridge on May 30 in the form of Ridge-a-Palooza! The Huber Ridge Area Association in conjunction with Faith Covenant Church organized this event for the first time this year. Based on attendee feedback, it was a big success.

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In all, there were a little more than 230 people in attendance—which is exciting considering this was the first year. There was lots to do and see including an inflatable obstacle course, an inflatable bounce house, face painting, a ladder ball game, cornhole, volleyball, an alpaca petting zoo as well as some impromptu line dancing. Additionally, the Blendon Township Police Department set up a tent with various informational pamphlets and information on the child fingerprinting program and gave away plastic Blendon Township Police hats for the kids. Several raffle items were also given away to the excited ticket holders. Last but certainly not least, after having snacked on cotton candy and Rita's Italian ice, everyone enjoyed a picnic style dinner with hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, fruit, desserts and drinks; and when the sun went down, the movie *Bolt* was displayed on a huge screen while remaining attendees munched on hot popcorn.

Plans are already in the works for next year's Ridge-a-Palooza since this event was so popular with those who were able to come. The organizers of Ridge-a-Palooza would like to thank the merchants and donors whose generosity contributed to the success of this event. They are The Best Breakfast and Sandwiches, Karn Meats, Rita's, Hostess Wonder Shop, Main Events, Napa Auto Parts, Sunbury Road McDonald's, Hollywood Studio Theater, Bill and June Riggs, Blendon Township Police Department, Emily Van of EJV Designs, and a host of neighborhood and church volunteers. Pictures of this event can be viewed through a link at huberridge.org.

—Carolyn Cordray, Activities Coordinator

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Congratulations to All ...

for yet another grand community garage sale! This year we beat last year's number and, from what I saw, had a way bigger turnout. Over 60 houses registered this year, and again we saw people with refreshments for sale as well as a proper lunch and all extremely affordable!

This just goes to show our neighborhood with every community sale, water meeting, or whatever gets closer and closer.

Again this year, the sale wouldn't have been possible without the help and support from Barbara Crawford. A huge thank you to her and **Century 21 Joe Walker & Associates** for their support.

—Tom Burke, Vice President

Every Participant Awarded for Gardening Efforts

HRAA Huber Ridge Bl❀❀ms Winners' List

Judges' Awards:

1st PLACE WINNER: Joseph and Carol Marcum, 3700 Santiago Drive

2nd PLACE WINNER: Paul and Bethany Broderick, 5556 Oslo Drive

3rd PLACE WINNER: Ron and Janice Fultz, 5555 Oslo Drive

Visitors' Choice Award:

Roger and Darlene Hambel, 3347 Dempsey Road

Judges' Individual Awards to Each Participant:

- Roger and Darlene Hambel, 3374 Dempsey Road—most orderly and diverse garden; exceptional features
- Misty Cochenour, 3361 Arnett Court—best and most creative theme gardens
- Liz Raymond and Criss Loew, 6361 Arnett Road—best garden art, backyard surprise, and family participation
- George, Ricki, Haley, and Alexa Ford, 6359 Saddle Lane East—best vegetable garden and stone feature
- Al and Lanita Davis, 3547 Dempsey Road—outstanding curb appeal and variety
- Lee, Mindy, Cody, and Jacob March, 3525 Dahlgreen Drive—best seed garden and youngest gardener award
- Eric Drake, 5944 Bangasi Road—most environmentally conscious

- David Rector and Tiana Edwards, 3566 Makassar Drive—best heritage garden and improvement
- Linda VanTassel, 3641 Manila Drive—best ferns; most healthy and inviting garden
- Jennifer McDonald and James Baxter, 3740 Caracas Drive—quickest transformation to beauty and neatness
- Mary Baxter-Bown, 3721 Lima Drive—most wildlife friendly, diverse, and calming garden
- Cheri Gray, 5680 Bashaw Drive—best child-friendly environment
- Carol and Roger Betts, 5664 Spohn Court—best shade gardens and hosta variety
- Mary and Rick Moore, 5648 Spohn Court—beautiful borders and most attractive walkway
- Tami Martine, 5641 Spohn Court—best perennials and retreat garden
- Ralph and Judy Barrell, 5625 Madrid Drive—best roses and most charming garden
- Nancy Daniels, 3560 Madrid Drive—most creative use of annuals and lawn furniture; best driveway border
- Ron and Janice Fultz, 5555 Oslo Drive—most and best display of flowers; outstanding garden variety
- Paul and Bethany Broderick, 5556 Oslo Drive—outstanding design and premier landscaping
- Sharon Ricker, 5561 Oslo Drive—last year's 1st place winner
- Justin and Crystal Jenkins, 5591 Oslo Drive—most improved; efficient use of yard; best back yard
- Sara Durbin, 5584 Santiago Drive—best window boxes and most amazing gardener
- Joseph and Carol Marcum, 3700 Santiago Drive—most meticulous; best outdoor living, lighting and water features

Congratulations to all!

—Pam Clegg, Huber Ridge Bl❀❀ms Coordinator

Carol and Joseph Marcum, 1st Place Bl❀❀ms Winner, with Blendon Township Trustee Stew Flaherty

Paul Broderick, 2nd Place Bl❀❀ms Winner, with Bl❀❀ms Judge Sharon Ricker

HRAA Huber Ridge Bl❀❀ms Bloomed, But Only for a Few

The summer edition of *The Herald* communicated the need of participants for our annual garden show and contest held July 18. (We had none listed.) By the time we reached the July 3 entry deadline, we had 23 participants; 22 competitively. This represents a 64 percent increase from last year! The participants responded to the occasion.

What I apparently neglected to promote, however, was the need for garden visitors. It was supposed to be a garden show but ended up being mostly a garden contest among the participants.

Neighbors, your fellow neighbors worked so hard to make their gardens beautiful for you to see. Where were all of you? Admittedly it rained on and off, and there was a car show that day; but the garden show was from 1 to 6 p.m.—a large window of opportunity to view gardens. You really missed seeing some beautiful, creative gardens.

We are in the early stages of this event, and we are learning. Next year we will have maps at the kiosks; banners across the kiosks indicating "Garden Show Today"; maps at

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the library if approved; and hopefully earlier registrations—so the newspapers can print all the addresses. If you have other suggestions, please email or call me, blockwatch@huberridge.org, 891-9176.

Thanks to *The Columbus Dispatch* and *Westerville Suburban News* for printing articles announcing the show. Thanks to our 23 gardeners who worked so hard to make their yards beautiful for themselves and the community. Thanks to Jaclyn Davis and Sharon Ricker who spent hours judging the contest. Thanks to HRAA members and Executive Committee members whose dues and decisions made signs and prizes possible. A special thanks to Trustee Stewart Flaherty, Honorary Chairman, for his $100 donation for first place; and to Sharon Ricker, for her $50 donation for second place. Thanks to Kathie Butler, Carolyn Cordray, Jean Dawson, Nancy Hill, Lori Mann, Joy Neff, and Jim Welch for assistance with awards, kiosk signs, and the Gardeners' Reception; and deepest thanks to my family for all they did to help me with this event.

For a complete list of winners and awards, please see the corresponding article, "HRAA Huber Ridge Bl❀❀ms Winners' List," on pages 13 and 14.

—Pam Clegg, HRAA Huber Ridge Bl❀❀ms Coordinator and Judge

Huber Ridge Bl❀❀ms Reception

The Huber Ridge Bl❀❀ms reception was held on Sunday, July 19, at 6:30 p.m.—the day after the tour of gardens. The HRAA's annual Huber Ridge Bl❀❀ms tour was well attended—by Mother Nature with rain, which was good for the gardens but not so good for attendance. Unlike the tour, the reception was held at Ridgewood Park in the shelter house and was a sunny, beautiful evening and was well attended.

Approximately 50 residents and gardeners, and 20 of 23 registered Bl❀❀ms tour homes were represented. As the awards ceremony started, there was in the middle of the shelter house a 12-inch digital picture frame randomly displaying garden pictures taken by the Cleggs.

One by one, every gardener received an award certificate made by Kathie Butler. Each certificate included a picture of the gardener's home and an inscription such as "outstanding curb appeal" or "quickest transformation" or "best garden art." Then the Visitors' Choice Award was given to Roger and Darlene Hambel, 3347 Dempsey Road; it was a $25 check from the HRAA presented by Pam Clegg, Bl❀❀ms

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Coordinator. The 3rd Place Award was presented to Ron and Janice Fultz, 5555 Oslo Drive, by me, Jim Welch, HRAA President. The 2nd Place Award was presented to Paul and Bethany Broderick, 5556 Oslo Drive; it was a $50 Oakland Park gift card donated by and presented by Sharon Ricker, an HRAA resident and last year's 1st Place Award winner. And, last but not least, the 1st Place Award was presented to Joseph and Carol Marcum, 3700 Santiago Drive; it was a $100 Home Depot gift card donated by and presented by Blendon Township Trustee Stewart Flaherty.

After the awards ceremony, there was a reception with snacks and beverages supplied by the Clegg family, Carolyn and Eric Cordray, Joya Neff, and Sharon Ricker.

As I stated earlier, the tour had been well attended by Mother Nature and not as well by residents. Fortunately we had signs made up and posted at the houses on the tour, and the homes were listed on our website in advance. This allowed residents to see the homes and gardens before the tour. The hard work these 23 registered gardeners put forth did not go unnoticed. The fruits of their labor can be seen all season long. The pride they displayed in their homes can be seen all year long. I unfortunately had to work on Saturday so Jean and I took the list from the website and did the tour Friday evening. Our Friday's tour was not as nice since we did not go browsing through the yards of our gardeners, but we did notice that Friday that about 20 to 30 residents near the tour homes were out cleaning and mulching to make their homes nice as people toured Saturday.

Last year we had 14 participants, and this year we had 23. Beautification is contagious! Your HRAA works very hard each year to host functions that unite the community for the betterment of our community. These 23 gardeners did not just beautify their homes; they increased the values of their homes and yours. Congratulations to all!!

This is our community. You can and do make a difference.

—Jim Welch, President

"Love Your Pet" Grooming Shop

This article continues a report on another fine business located right here in Blendon Township. If you have a dog or cat, there is a great grooming service right here to help keep your pet healthy, happy, and beautiful! Check out "Love Your Pet" Grooming Shop located at 5858-A Westerville Road in Glengary Shopping Center. This shop is run by Flo Doyle.

Here are the interview questions I asked Flo:

How long has "Love Your Pet" been in business at your current location? August 5, 1985—24 years

How long have you been in the pet grooming business? Flo has been in the pet grooming business for 30 years since 1979.

How did you get started in this business? Flo's first business was a full-line pet shop. The shop offered grooming services, which were done by another employee. Flo was thrust into the grooming side of the business when the shop's groomer left. Now some 30 years later, Flo is still doing the grooming and loving it.

Do you only groom dogs and cats? Sorry, all you monkey owners; Flo only grooms dogs and cats, and she does not do toddlers.

Have you ever groomed any unusual animals during your career? Have you ever heard of a Bedlington Terrier? It looks more like a sheep than a dog. If you get a chance, check out a picture of a Bedlington Terrier on the internet. Well, Flo groomed one of these at one time. Now if Flo can groom a Bedlington Terrier, then she can groom any dog you have.

What grooming services do you offer? The normal grooming services involve the bath, nails, ears, eyes, anal glands, blow dry, brushing, combing, and scissoring.

What is the cost of your grooming services? It depends upon the size and condition of the dog and how much time is spent. For example, totally scissoring a dog requires a lot of time and skills. Another factor that

occasionally plays into cost is the disposition of the dog, which may present some challenges.

What do you like best about your job? Flo likes seeing the finished work: a well groomed pet that is nice and neat and scissored well.

How do you give a cat a bath? Very carefully! ☺

Have you ever had to give a really big dog like a St. Bernard a bath? How do you do that? The "Love Your Pet" shop does large dogs all the time. Flo and her staff all work as a team and help each other to hold and lift the dogs when necessary.

What is your favorite dog that you like to groom and why? Flo likes to groom scissored breeds like Poodles, Buchons, or Westies because she gets to be really creative, and they look the best when finished.

What is your favorite cat you like to groom and why? Flo doesn't really have a favorite cat to groom because most cats do not take to grooming very well. They tolerate combing, but getting shaved and bathed usually are not their favorite things.

What kind of training is needed to do your job? To become a good groomer, you need to spend time learning as an apprentice under someone or go to a qualified grooming school. But the real talent for grooming is a gift that people either have or don't have. This is a natural ability that is brought out and enhanced with training. As Flo put it, no amount of practice will make a person a good groomer. Groomers are not "made"; they are "brought out," and their skills are "honed."

How do you handle difficult pets? Difficult pets are handled carefully and sometimes with help. If necessary, a gentle muzzle is sometimes used. Some dogs exhibit a totally different personality when gently muzzled, and then they are not as aggressive.

How often should a person have his or her pet groomed? Generally every 4 to 8 weeks depending upon the breed and 3 to 4 times a year for large coated breeds.

What would you say is special about your grooming business that sets you apart from other grooming businesses? Flo is a licensed Animal Health Technician and can spot problems because she is much more aware of things to look for that could potentially cause problems for the animal down the road. When Flo sees something of concern, she will notify the customer to contact his or her vet.

Has the recent economic situation affected your business? According to Flo, the recent economic situation has affected her business very much.

If you could summarize your business philosophy in one or two sentences, what would it be? To be fair and honest always—your integrity and reputation are very important when you have a small, personalized business.

So if you have a dog or cat and are in need of grooming services, contact Flo Doyle at "Love Your Pet." She has 30 years of experience and really knows her stuff! Her phone number is 899-0226.

—Doug Dapo, Neighbor

"When Autumn Leaves Start to Fall"

The line in the melancholy song penned by Johnny Mercer should remind us that with autumn, those who have deciduous trees will have a new job—raking or blowing fallen leaves. This is a friendly prompting that we should, for the health and appearance of our lawn, get the leaves off the grass and out of the mulch.

For our new neighbors who may not know, Blendon Township does not provide leaf pickup at the curb. Leaves must be bagged in paper (not plastic) yard waste bags, which can be purchased at home improvement or grocery stores. (Our trash hauler, Rumpke, will not take yard waste in plastic bags.) The good news is we have weekly yard waste pickup at the curb via Rumpke.

Remember when raking leaves, rake the street gutter as well. When leaves are left on the street, they wash into the sewer drop and could cause street flooding, which—in turn—may result in personal property damage. This is costly to the Township and ultimately to us. Clean yards and streets improve the overall appearance of the community. When the community looks good, we look good. Thanks!

—Pam Clegg, Neighbor

Congratulations to the Braves!

Congratulations to the Blendon Westerville Little League Major Division Champs—the Braves! This team was led by resident Cheri Gray. "This was a very rewarding experience, and I truly enjoyed coaching baseball! I made some new friends along the way and hope I made a positive impact in the lives of these amazing young people."

—Cheri Gray, Neighbor

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Barbara Crawford
GRI, ABR, ePRO, Premier Agent
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Each office is independently Owned and Operated.

Blendon Township Police Ask, "Where Did the Summer Go?"

As you read this article, sounds of school buses, leaf blowers, and other typical fall sounds will hopefully replace the sounds of expensive air conditioners and costly water sprinklers. The summer sounds of sirens heard by many residents of the Karikal Road area will never be forgotten. For several weeks, residents lived in fear because of turmoil between several families resulting in assaults, threats, and gun fire on a street normally known for its tranquility.

Not only did this tax the emotions of many residents, it put a heavy burden on the Police Department answering calls for services. The police response was fast, the situation "of the moment" was calmed, and reports (many) were taken with some "on-view" arrests. Incidents continued with more reports and "victims" referred to the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office to seek legal action. The Police Department increased police presence both uniformed and covert in attempts to quell further turmoil and restore the tranquility. The Detective Bureau is still **actively investigating all leads** received and has high hopes of identifying those involved in the drive-by shooting which fortunately only resulted in property damage. The Police Department would like to express their gratitude to all those who assisted as witnesses or called in suspicious activities associated with the unrest in the area.

The Police Department has been very busy throughout the summer not only in response to crime but also in traffic enforcement and community services. The Department consists of a chief, a lieutenant, 2 sergeants, 2 detectives, and 11 patrol officers. Your 1st shift (7 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and 2nd shift officers continue to patrol the Township conducting residential and business checks when they are not answering calls for service. Your 3rd shift (11 p.m. to 7 a.m.) officers also conduct these checks and, when not answering calls for service, have been very active in OVI (impaired driver) enforcement with well over a hundred arrests so far this year. This has a strong impact on highway safety, which has contributed to the reduction of traffic crashes within the Township.

Your Detective Bureau is very busy managing and investigating a high volume of criminal cases. Prioritizing cases is a challenge for follow-up investigations, and keeping a victim content on a case progress is a difficult task at times. All investigative cases get reviewed, and many are resolved by arrests and criminal charges.

The Department has participated in many community events this year including Ridge-a-Palooza at Faith Covenant Church on May 30 and the Westerville Cops & Kids Day at Hoff Woods Park on September 13.

In closing, I would like to stress the importance of crime prevention. It takes a minute to safeguard your property—however, in many cases, only half that time for someone to steal or damage your property. Please remain or become involved in YOUR Block Watch program. It has been proven that the unity between the Police Department and the Block Watch program has been successful in making arrests and reducing crime.

—Sgt. Branch Wayt, Blendon Township Police Department

The Latest Buzz—Fire Pits and Safety

Recent questions about fire pit usage in the neighborhood prompted us to do research on the matter. We contacted Chief Bernie Ingles, Westerville Fire, who directed us to John Bokros, Battalion Chief of Fire Prevention, Westerville Fire.

Unless otherwise noted, information below is from John Bokros.

Q. Some residents use urn-like containers; some have built stone pits to burn fires in their backyards. Is this permissible?

A. The fires you describe are classified by the Ohio Fire Code as recreational fire. A permit is not needed from the Fire Division [for this type of fire].

Chief Bernie Ingles wrote, "Basically, since you are in the Township, what you are describing is legal. These fires are regulated by the Ohio EPA. If there is a fire that may present a danger, please call us; and we will respond."

Battalion Chief John Bokros provided general regulations as follows:

- Fires should not be closer than 25 feet of a structure. [this means any structure—wood fence, etc.]
- All wood should be clean burning. [seasoned wood—not leaves, not paper, etc.]
- Recreational fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. [make sure the fire is extinguished before you leave it]

All other open burning must have a permit issued by the Westerville Fire Division and/or the Ohio EPA.

To report emergencies, call 911. To report a non-emergency fire issue, call the radio room at 901-6790.

—Pam Clegg, Block Watch Coordinator
—Battalion Chief John Bokros
—Fire Chief Bernie Ingles

Water Rate Got You Down? Read This and Save Green.

This article was inspired by a resident of Huber Ridge quoted in a Westerville paper as saying that the water rate increase nearly caused her not to plant flowers this year. The water rate increase will also potentially impact the quantity and quality of entries into the yearly Huber Ridge Bl❀❀ms contest.

Native perennial prairie gardening is a tremendous way to save time, money, water, and energy. The strength, vigor, and vitality of the plants will also make you seem like a better gardener than perhaps you really are. *Perennial* means you only plant once, and the plants come back stronger every year.

I am not advocating just allowing an area to go fallow in hopes that what comes in will be native. Most of the time in this situation, non-native invasives will take over and do more harm than good. I am recommending matching the correct native plant to the soil type and light conditions available and arranging them by temperament, size/color, and benefit to maximize results.

Native plant gardening is easier. You will save time, money, and effort and will have happier plants in the end. Happy native flowers are easier to look at, more valuable to the environment, and beneficial to the community. Native prairie plants are extremely resistant to drought, heat, cold, insects, and rabbit and deer damage. They do not need fertilizer or special care, only a fighting chance. They do, however, need watered occasionally until they are established. Once this happens, you will be amazed how tough and hardy these plants truly are. They are perfectly suited for our soil, climate, and weather cycles because they are native to Ohio. Give them the space, light, and soil type they need; and they will do the rest.

The secret to the success of these plants lies in the taproot, which acts as a water, nutrient, and energy storing device. Should another fall hurricane come and blow seeds all over Blendon Township, native seeds will fly away at 85 mph

continued on 21

Elect Jan Heichel for Blendon Township Trustee

As a Blendon Township Trustee, I will:

1. Closely monitor Rumpke Waste Services to assure they improve their quality of customer service & live up to the terms of their contract.

2. Continue the efforts to find a resolution for our rising water rates.

3. Utilize sound business practices when spending our tax dollars.

4. Work to achieve your vision of improving the appearance of our neighborhood.

I have lived in Huber Ridge for 35 years. Being married to Tom Heichel, who recently retired as the **Blendon Township Police Chief** after 32 years of service, I have been fortunate to embrace many long lasting relationships within the community and township administration. Having raised my family here has left me with an unbreakable connection and commitment to the township and over the years I have developed a clear vision for the future of our community that I believe will enrich the lives of all residents.

This is a paid political advertisement; the HRAA does not endorse political candidates as a matter of policy.
Paid for by: Committee to Elect Jan Heichel, Blendon Twp Trustee, Pat Lomano, Treasurer, 3707 Santiago Dr., Westerville OH

Stew Flaherty

Township Trustee

Today there are complex and crucial issues facing Blendon Township. Stew Flaherty has the leadership experience, connections and knowledge to make a difference for Blendon Township at this critical time.

- **Provide long term solutions for water & sewer issues**
- **Enhance property values and improve our neighborhoods**
- **Support and enhance police & safety services**
- **Advocate fiscal responsibility and sound management**
- **Advance regional cooperation on infrastructure issues**

Experienced Leadership. Proven Results.

This is a paid political advertisement; the HRAA does not endorse political candidates as a matter of policy.
Paid for by Flaherty for Trustee, Michael Flaherty, Treasurer, 577 Office Parkway, Westerville, OH 43082.

to repopulate areas they once occupied instead of the non-native invasives that got blown into our yards.

Not treating your lawn with chemicals also provides many wonderful benefits. You won't have to mow or water your lawn as often, and the money you save on water, chemicals, and mower gas and maintenance can be used to pay your water bill. Not mowing as often saves you time as well. The biodiversity of your lawn will change—favoring drought tolerant greenery rabbits prefer to eat. Rabbits then will not be forced to rely solely on the plants you don't want them to eat. Children will once more be able to enjoy butterflies, hummingbirds, crickets, grasshoppers, fireflies, and June bugs (which erupt in May) just as most of us over 40 did as children.

Lawn chemicals and mosquito fogging indiscriminately kills the larval and adult stages of beneficial insects, butterflies, and pollinators—making a problematic situation worse. Excess insects produced by healthy natural lawns are readily consumed by songbirds, bats, toads, ladybugs, dragonflies, and montids. Water going to the storm drain will be cleaner and safer should it end up in the drinking supply. Earthworms will naturally aerate your soil consuming dog exhaust, leaves, and lawn clippings. Native Mason and European honeybees in peril all over the U.S. will find safe haven in your yard. Pollinators are vitally important to life as we know it. Without them, we will have fewer types of food and less food to eat.

Augment the soil prior to planting with organic materials working like a sponge to hold water and allow easy root penetration. Screened rain barrels installed near downspouts allow one to save hundreds of gallons of water without the worry of mosquitoes. (The hose attaches at the bottom, and gravity releases the water.) Larger underground units with electric pumps are also available to maximize water independence. Everybody wins except for the water and chemical companies and those who object to allowing what was here before we were given a chance to exist. Give it a try. You'll be glad you did.

Sources for native drought-tolerant plants are:

- Wild Birds Unlimited, 5400 Riverside Drive, Columbus, OH 43220 (northeast corner of Bethel and Riverside near Dublin), 614-766-2103 (Plant descriptions and planting guides are available upon request.)
- Ohio Prairie Nursery, Hiram, OH, 330-569-3380, ohioprairienursery.com
- Prairie Moon Nursery, 866-417-8156, 507-452-1362, or prairiemoon.com
- Prairie Nursery, 800-476-9453, prairienursery.com (Ask about the no-mow grass mix, which has a maximum height of 8 inches and needs mowing every 4 to 6 weeks once established).

—David M., Neighbor

Trustee's Compliment

At the close of a recent Blendon Township meeting, Trustee Jerry Ward expressed his appreciation to those who come to the meetings. He said during his time as Trustee there have been many meetings with few in attendance, and it is a pleasure to see the residents of the Township showing their interest by coming out.

Because the majority (if not all) in attendance were from Huber Ridge, that was a kind compliment.

It is important that, just by being there, we let the Trustees know we care about Huber Ridge and want resources to improve the parts of our community that need their attention. You don't need to say anything; just be there! But if you do wish to speak, there is a rule of etiquette that is good to know. Just stand, be recognized, give your name and address, then speak. And ending with a "thank you" is nice. You'll see others just speak out without standing or being recognized; but by our approach, we can show pride in Huber Ridge, knowledge of and respect for the rule, and courtesy before the Trustees.

Do come out once in a while! The meetings are at the Senior Center on every other Wednesday. You can figure the rotation by starting with September 2 or check it out on the website.

—Joya Neff, Neighbor

Huber Ridge Stats

Realtor Nancy King of the Coldwell Banker King Thompson Westerville/Polaris East Office has provided us with the following information from the Columbus Board of Realtors MLS:

- 14 new listings in the last 31 days (from September 3)
- 27 active listings (properties for sale) which includes 14 new listings
- 14 properties awaiting financing on offers
- 7 homes sold since July 1, 2009
- 2 homes under contract (awaiting closing)

—Nancy King, Realtor

HRAA Hit Report

The Huber Ridge Area Association's website, huberridge.org, continues to be popular with members of the community. Here is the hit report for the last six months:

April 2009	2,269
May 2009	2,582
June 2009	2,691
July 2009	2,525
August 2009	2,641
September 2009 (through September 17)	1,910

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor

Loving care for your pets
in your home
or in our facility!

RIDGEWOOD ANIMAL CARE
Wendy McCullen Vermillion, DVM
- House-call services
- Full-service clinic

Call 740-369-9123 for an appointment!

Litter Box Etiquette 101— How to Prevent and Deal with Inappropriate Elimination in Cats

One of the most common complaints we hear as veterinarians is a client's kitty has decided not to use the litter box and rather will urinate and defecate at other places in the family home. This creates a great deal of stress in the household as odors and the extra cleaning tasks can make life unpleasant. So why does this happen, and how can this behavior be prevented? First, your veterinarian should be consulted to rule out health problems such as urinary tract infections that may increase the urgency to urinate. If infections and other problems are ruled out, then the answers may lie in the understanding of basic feline behavior. Cats are fastidiously clean animals. They like their food and water bowls clean, their coats clean, and most of all they like a clean litter box. And who can blame them? Have you ever been faced with a dirty port-a-potty at a public event? Or a filthy gas station restroom? Same thing for a kitty with a dirty litter box except they have fewer acceptable alternatives!

So how clean is clean? You may be surprised. Cats have remarkable well developed senses of smell and can detect odors that we may not smell. Starting out clean is important. When you buy a new litter box, scrub it well with hot, soapy water and then rinse and air dry. This will remove strange odors from shipping and handling that may be offensive to your cat. If the box has been previously used (think garage sale purchase), then wash as above and follow with a soak in ½ cup of bleach to a gallon of water. Let this sit a while and then rinse thoroughly. Household bleach is an excellent disinfectant. Other types of disinfectants are not recommended because they may be potentially harmful to you and your cat. Ammonia is not a good choice because its odor can smell like urine, and your cat may think the box is already dirty when it is freshly washed.

Once a box has been cleaned and filled with litter, you must keep it clean. Scoopable litter products may give you a false sense of security and lead you to believe that an occasional scooping is good hygiene. For some cats, a box that has been used only once becomes unacceptable for a second use. If you only have time to scoop on a normal, busy day, then at least try to accomplish this twice a day. Then plan on scrubbing and disinfecting the box at least weekly. Your cat will let you know when you are not doing this often enough!

So let's say you are an avid box scrubber, and your feline friend is still offending. When this happens, we need to examine the situation further. Some cats prefer and require two boxes—one for urination and one for defecation (yes, they really can make this distinction!). Sometimes other features of the box are problematic. For example, the plastic liners sold in stores may be rejected by cats due to their strange odor or the "feel" of the bag on their feet. Or you may have chosen a box with a lid, and your cat does not like the dark, cave-like interior. Your choice of litter or the amount you use may not be to your cat's liking. Strongly scented types may be pleasing to you but may be offensive to your kitty. Some cats prefer shallow litter while others prefer deeper. You may opt to try several types and amounts to see if these changes make a difference.

Location of the litter box and the number of boxes can both factor into inappropriate elimination issues. This is especially true if you have more than one cat. Cats are very private animals, and you may need to find a more sheltered location to place the litter box. And certainly expect to provide at least one box per cat. Remember, cats mark their territories and initiate battles with urine and feces; so it is not uncommon for them not to want to share another cat's box!

A cat that has been eliminating outside the litter box for a while may need to be retrained. This can be accomplished by choosing a small room and closing both your kitty and the box inside for a few days. If this is a bathroom, put an inch or so of water in the tub so that he/she won't decide to use the tub as a box. And make sure there are no piles of laundry around to act as "litter"! Once your cat is using the box, then you can slowly release him into the house as a whole.

Now how about that spot on your carpet that your kitty always goes back to! Enzyme-containing carpet cleaners are available at most pet stores. These will remove urine odors, but they take time (even weeks) to work. So once you apply as directed, cover the affected area with aluminum foil, a sheet of plastic, or (better still) a plastic carpet runner laid down with the points facing upward.

So, as you can see, keeping a happy kitty and a clean litter box go hand in hand. Keep the litter box in tiptop shape and consider your cat's preferences over yours. These steps should make your home a feline friendly place to be!

—Wendy McCullen-Vermillion, DVM

Blendon Township Trustee Meeting Schedule

To learn more about the plans and undertakings of the Blendon Township Trustees and to make your voice heard, plan to attend one or more of the following Wednesday Trustee meetings:

Wednesday, October 14
Wednesday, October 28
Tuesday, November 10
Tuesday, November 24
Wednesday, December 9
Wednesday, December 23

Meetings are held at the Blendon Township Senior Center, 6350 South Hempstead Road, at 6:30 p.m. Occasionally meeting times are changed; call Linda Harter, Administrative Assistant, at 882-1270 to confirm the time of the meeting before you go!

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor

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

If you are interested in advertising in the winter issue of *The Herald*, please contact Marje Obrist at 891-6944 or at editor@huberridge.org.

Elect JAMES WELCH
YOUR Blendon Township Trustee
on November 3, 2009

PROVEN:
leadership
fiscal responsibility
creative problem solving
commitment
reliability
initiative

- I have led the fight against OAWC's constant rate increases and commit to explore every avenue to achieve the rates and services residents expect and deserve.
- I have been a Blendon Township resident since 2000 and President of the Huber Ridge Area Association for a little over 4 years. Under my direction, the HRAA has made a difference in the Huber Ridge area and Blendon Township.
- As President of the HRAA/*volunteer* to the community, I have demonstrated the leadership, knowledge, devotion, and ability to be your Trustee.

www.jameswelch.mysite.com

This is a paid political advertisement; the HRAA does not endorse political candidates as a matter of policy.

Just One of the Benefits of Membership

A while ago I pulled up to a light in Westerville, and a lady beside me honked and waved. She was someone I'd recently met at a Ridge meeting. Then Bob and I went to a local restaurant in Easton a couple of weeks ago. When the server approached, he said, "You don't know who I am, do you?" I admitted I didn't. He introduced himself—a neighbor I had just met! During our meal, I noticed another neighbor family being seated. We exchanged waves; and our server, who didn't know them, also greeted them. I felt like I had gone back to my hometown where everyone knows everyone!

These events would never have happened had I not been involved in HRAA!

If you're not enjoying that feeling, come out to the meetings (the first Thursday of each month), meet your neighbors, share your ideas, and get involved in your community. THEN, of course, I'll ask you not just to enjoy the benefits but also to help support them with just $15 dues for membership. The application form is below. (You've always heard to beware of the fine print!)

—Joya Neff, Membership Coordinator

Speaking of Membership, Help Us Understand

Our first member benefit was a huge success at the Ridge-a-Palooza. And as we promised, it won't be the last. At the Halloween Party, Carolyn Cordray, our Activities Coordinator, has a plan to again show that we appreciate our members. We know you enjoy the many activities the Association brings to you; the security of a fantastic Block Watch program, a website that keeps you up to date, the quarterly *Herald* delivered to your door, an active Association which has your best interests in mind—and this *Herald* bringing you help in selecting your Township Trustees. So why are some of you not willing to pay just $15 a year to support these benefits? Please let me hear from you!

—Joya Neff, Membership Coordinator

HUBER RIDGE AREA ASSOCIATION 2009 MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Application shows your agreement to abide by the Bylaws and be a member in good standing.)

Name(s) of adult(s) _____

Address _____

Phone number(s) _____

E-mail _____

Membership dues are $15 per household. Dues are for a 12-month period and may be paid at any time throughout the year. You can bring your dues to a meeting or mail them to the Membership Coordinator, Joya Neff, 3615 Stockholm Road, Westerville, OH 43081. Checks are to be made payable to the Huber Ridge Area Association.

Here's What's Happening in the Ridge!

Put these dates on your calendar!

October 1	**Huber Ridge Community Social at Huber Ridge School from 6 to 8 p.m.**
October 6	**Blendon Township Trustee Candidate Q & A at Faith Covenant Church, 3607 Dempsey Road, at 6:30 p.m.**
October 8	**HRAA Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m. NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!**
October 15	**HRAA Executive Committee Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.**
October 24	**HRAA Halloween Party in Ridgewood Park from 6 to 8 p.m.**
October 26	**Blendon Land Use Public Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.**
October 31	**Beggars' Night**
November 3	**Election Day**
November 5	**HRAA Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.**
November 19	**HRAA Executive Committee Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.**
December 3	**HRAA Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m. DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2010 HRAA OFFICERS**
December 11	**Deadline for Holiday Lights and Decorations Contest Entries**
December 17	**HRAA Executive Committee Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.**
January 7	**HRAA Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m. ELECTION OF 2010 HRAA OFFICERS**