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Holiday Cheer: Helping Out Close to Home

BY CLAUDIA CARNEY, COORDINATOR

With summer weather still hanging on for dear life, it's hard to think about Christmas right now. But when planning for our annual Holiday Cheer drive, it's never too soon!

Whether a family has suffered the loss of a loved one, an illness is overwhelming them and their bank accounts, or their main source of income has stopped or dropped dramatically, it's time to start thinking about the families in Huber Ridge who won't have much to celebrate this holiday season. Last year, with the generous support of our neighbors, we raised almost \$1300 and were able to bless two families with gifts, grocery and gas cards. In addition, many other folks bought some of the items outright or donated other gifts for our "adopted" families.



This year we will again set an initial goal of providing cheer for one family; if the donations are as generous as last year we will adopt one or more families. The vetting process is the same as always; the Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM) will select a family from their adoptee requests who is a Huber Ridge resident and their "wish lists" will be

Cheer continued on page 2

COMING EVENTS

October

- 19 Halloween Party at the Park, 6:00 pm
- 24 Meet the Candidates Night, 7:00 pm
- 31 Beggars Night/Trick or Treat, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

November

- 4 Holiday Cheer Program Kick-Off
- 5 Election Day - Don't forget to VOTE!

- 28 Thanksgiving - *Rumpke Service Delay*

December

- 2 HRAA General Membership Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 10 Holiday Lights and Decoration Contest Kick-Off
- 25 Christmas Day - *Rumpke Service Delay*

January

- 1 New Year's Day - *Rumpke Service Delay*

All Huber Ridge residents are invited to attend the HRAA General Meetings at the Blendon Township Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Rd (next to the police station).



Night to Meet Candidates, Hear the Issues

Thursday, October 24th

7:00 PM

Blendon Senior Center
6330 S. Hempstead

The Huber Ridge Area Association has planned a Meet the Candidate Night on Thursday, October 24 at 7:00 pm. The event will take place at the Blendon Senior Center (6330 S. Hempstead).

At this time we have confirmed candidates for Blendon Township Trustee (Jim Welch), Blendon Township Fiscal Officer (Shawn Smith), Westerville School Board Candidate (Vaughn Bell) and we will also have representatives coming to speak on the Westerville City Schools Levy and Bond issues.

As has been our tradition, Huber Ridge Area Association Meet the Candidate Nights are moderated and each candidate or representative is allowed a certain amount of time to present, then will be made available for questions from the audience.

Please plan to come!

Cheer continued from page 2

given to the HRAA. The names of the family we bless are not known to anyone other than WARM staff.

However, before we know how many families or seniors we can assist, we need to know how much residents are willing to donate. Generally, the monies must be available by the end of November so the “elves” can shop and families can pick up their presents at WARM during the second week of December.

It would be great if someone else can help with fundraising this year-last year we had another person who really pitched in and got some great donations from not only neighbors, but from some of the local businesses. And we always need some shopping and wrapping elves-the perfect way to participate if you cannot afford to donate financially.

You can donate to the Holiday Cheer fund at <http://www.huberridge.org/> and click on the PayPal donate button or contact Claudia Carney on our Facebook Page with questions or to sign up as an “elf” at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/352250756442/>

Please make this season brighter for a family or two who might not have much light in their lives right now. ■

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HUBER RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Principal Notes

As you are likely aware, Huber Ridge is often used as a polling location for the Franklin County Board of Elections. On Nov. 5th, students will not be in session at Huber Ridge Elementary and teachers will engage in a day of professional learning attending various professional development activities at Westerville Central High School. This is true for all Westerville City Schools/faculty.

One issue you will see on November 5th, 2019 ballot is "Issue #8," which has a direct impact on Westerville City Schools. Issue #8 includes 1.95 mills for facilities and 5.9 mills for continuing operations. The estimated monthly additional cost to property owners is \$22.89 per \$100,000 of valuation. Through careful management, stretching dollars, and taking rigorous care of school facilities, it has been 7 years since the Westerville City School District last asked voters for new operating revenue.

This ballot issue would fund projects across the district as outlined in the first five years of the district's Facilities Master Plan (FMP). One of those projects is safety and security updates at all schools. The district has already leveraged existing resources to install a new visitor management system and increase security upgrades at all 12 entry/exit points here at Huber Ridge Elementary. Similar safety updates are happening at all other schools across the district. Funds from Issue 8 would allow every school to receive even more modern security features and systems to keep students and staff safe. In fact, Huber Ridge Elementary is one of the 22 schools that would receive a redesigned entryway that includes a secure vestibule requiring visitors to go through the main office prior to having access to student occupied spaces. Only Westerville Central High School and Pointview Elementary have an entryway like this, but Issue 8 would allow all schools to have these safer entrances.

Issue 8 also addresses the district's growing enrollment. Since 2003, when the Westerville City Schools last opened new buildings for enrollment growth, almost 1,300 more students have joined our district. And, we are projected to add another 1,300 students over the next 10 years. The district reached a record of enrollment 15,385 in the 18-19 school year and is simply running out of space to educate students. This past summer, Westerville experienced a record number of Kindergarten students enrolled. Huber Ridge has directly felt this impact. In early June, our Kindergarten had filled every available seat. As a result, many students were "overflowed" to various other Westerville Elementary Schools that have the space to house them. To address this growing need, the FMP

includes a new elementary school and new middle school in the southern end of the district, renovations/additions at Annehurst and Whittier elementary schools, and other projects across the district. These projects will give more students an opportunity to attend school closer to their homes and neighborhoods.

If you have additional questions about this upcoming ballot issue, you can feel free to reach out to me at HilkertT@wcsoh.org. If I cannot answer your questions, I can certainly put you in contact with someone who can. The district has created two websites with additional information about these topics. For information about the FMP, go to www.wcsoh.org/facilities and for information about Issue 8, go to www.wcsoh.org/levy. Finally, if you are a registered voter, I encourage you to exercise your right to vote in this and other future elections.

Sincerely,

Tyson D. Hilkert, Principal
Huber Ridge Elementary
Westerville City Schools
614-797-7150 ■

Blood Drive at Huber Ridge

Huber Ridge Elementary is hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, October 23 from 2:30 - 8:00 pm in the gym. If you are eligible to give blood, please consider taking this opportunity right in our back yard at 5757 Buenos Aires Blvd. Westerville, Oh 43081.

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit www.RedCrossBlood.org and use sponsor code **HuberRidge** ■

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Huber Ridge Helping Hands



Ivan Kruk - stock.adobe.com

In each issue, we list neighbors who can help you with your To-Do list. We hope that you'll keep this list handy for quick reference when you need help.

Note that there may be fees associated with some of these services. Please contact the person directly for details.

Electrician

- Edward Claus (614) 446-0862, Edwardclaus4@gmail.com

How to participate

The Herald is offering a low (or no) cost option for residents to promote their services to the neighborhood. Listings are only \$10 each per issue. If you are a current member of the Huber Ridge Area Association, you can list your service for free! Contact Bernadine Pesika at bpesika@gmail.com for more details or to get signed up.

Are You a Member?

The Huber Ridge Area Association supports the many activities of the neighborhood including The Herald, Blockwatch program, regular meetings, sponsorship of summer concerts in the park, annual plant swap, two Community Garage Sales, Halloween Party, Blendon-Huber Ridge Blooms Garden Show & Contest, Holiday Cheer program, and Holiday Lights contest.

Annual membership dues are only \$15 per household payable at any time during the year.

JOIN THE HUBER RIDGE AREA ASSOCIATION INC.

Use this form when mailing in your new or renewal membership dues.

First & Last Name(s) of Adults _____

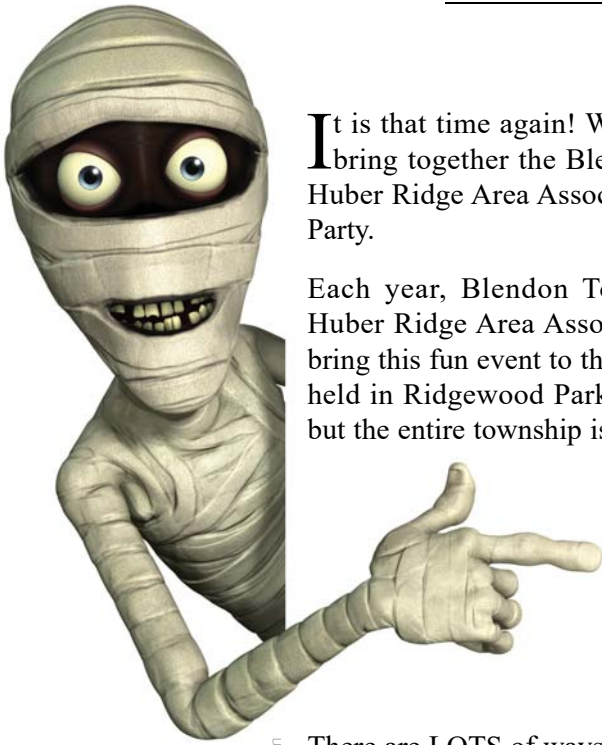
Address _____ Phone Number _____

Emails Address(es) _____

Please make checks payable to the "Huber Ridge Area Association, Inc." and mail to:
Thom Conley, 3533 Makassar Dr. Westerville, OH 43081

Dues may also be paid online with PayPal at www.huberridge.org

Halloween Fun at Party in the Park



Albert Ziganshin - stock.adobe.com

It is that time again! Work has begun to bring together the Blendon Township - Huber Ridge Area Association Halloween Party.

Each year, Blendon Township and the Huber Ridge Area Association partner to bring this fun event to the community. It is held in Ridgewood Park in Huber Ridge, but the entire township is invited to attend.

Saturday, October 19
6:00PM - 8:30PM
Ridgewood Park

There are LOTS of ways you, a resident of Huber Ridge, can help out, here are a few opportunities:

VOLUNTEER Indeed it takes many hands to bring this terrific event to the community. We need volunteers to help during the party with Registration, Raffle ticket sales, Costume Contest, Games monitoring, Concession and Hot Dog grilling, Hayride, S'mores, Bon Fire, Binky and Bozo's Fun House, Little Kid's Woods, Raffle, Trunk or Treat, Set up and Tear Down. Online sign-ups to help with any of these volunteer opportunities can be found on our website at www.huberridge.org or Facebook pages Huber Ridge Area Association News or Huber Ridge Area Association.

Prior to the party: Also need help getting raffle prizes. Do you know a merchant who would be willing to donate? Or perhaps a merchant who would sponsor?

DONATE Candy or Raffle prizes or cash to purchase supplies. Contact Carolyn Cordray at President@huberridge.org.

PRE-REGISTER If you are attending the party and bringing children aged 12 and under you will need to register at the party. The purpose of this registration is that in the event you get separated from your children, we and the Blendon Township Police have a way

of contacting you. We've used this system for many years and it has proven effective. We do offer the opportunity for families to pre-register online which shortens the process at the door so we urge families to take advantage of this process prior to coming to the party. This online sign up can also be found through our website at www.huberridge.org or on our Facebook pages Huber Ridge Area Association News or Huber Ridge Area Association.

The Halloween party is a great time whether you have kids or not! This event is all about a community coming together to have a fun time.

Questions? Contact Carolyn Cordray at President@huberridge.org. ■



Don't forget to Vote on
Tuesday, November 5.

Polls will be open from
6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Be sure to bring proper
identification.

Visit www.MyOhioVote.com to find your polling location,
what's on your ballot and what forms of ID are accepted.



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More Than Just Books

BY BERNADINE PESIKA, EDITOR

The Westerville Public Library has been a valued institution for 89 years. It opened its doors on December 15, 1930 and has been supporting literacy ever since. But did you know that the library offers more than just books? And all you need is a free library card.

The media section is a favorite of ours, where we can borrow DVD's or BluRays, Playaways for the kids or CDs for long drives. There is an extensive section of audiobooks.

Need a snack or caffeine fix during your visit? Stop by the coffee station in the lobby for a beverage and various munchies.

Looking for a notary? The library employs a notary and all you have to do is call (614) 882-7277 ext 5027 to make an appointment. (note that this is for individuals only, no businesses.)

Did you know that the library has a 3D Printing Service? Anyone 18 years or older with a library card can submit their project to the library. Once you get and approve the quote, your project will be completed and you'll have 10 days to pick up and pay for it.

The Homework Help Center is open Monday - Thursday from 5-8 pm for all elementary, middle and high school students needing help or a quiet space to complete their assignments.

Want to change up your decor? The library has a collection of over 400 pieces of art prints that you can borrow for 28 days. These include pieces by local artist as well as reproductions of famous artworks.

Gamers can take advantage of the Gaming Room and play selected Wii or X-box 360 games on the provided gaming systems.

And don't forget the many events and classes offered at the library. There's something for everyone with offerings from Toddler Story Time to LinkedIn Over 50 (a class that was held in September for mature workers ages 50+).

Visit their website at www.westervillelibrary.org and then take a trip to 126 S. State St. and see what's waiting for you. ■



Holiday Lights and Decorating Contest

SHARON RICKER, CONTEST COORDINATOR

The Huber Ridge Area Association is once again sponsoring its Holiday Lights and Decorating contest. No registration or application is necessary. The only requirement is that you live in the HRAA area and decorate your residence for the holidays.

Prizes include a cash award of \$50.00 for first place, \$35 for second place, and \$25.00 for third place. In addition to the cash award residents will receive a basket filled with holiday goodies.

All decorating should be completed by December 10 with prizes awarded Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00PM. ■





Winter Safety Reminders

Are you ready for winter? It'll be here before we know it. There are a few items you'll want to make sure you have in your winter toolkit.

Snow shovel or snow blower. Don't forget that property owners/occupants are responsible for clearing the sidewalk in front of their homes. There are a lot of students and parents who will be very grateful to you for keeping your walks clear as they trek to the school twice a day.

De-icing agent (salt or otherwise). This one will help you out as well to keep your drive and sidewalk clear. But if you want to keep your concrete in good health, make sure you get one that won't adversely affect it.

Another safety issue is the streets. Our township service department does a great job keeping our roads clear and safe for us. You can help them by moving your vehicle(s) off the streets during snow emergencies.

And don't forget indoor safety. According to the American Christmas tree Association, Christmas trees result in 13 million dollars annually in property damage. Be sure to follow these precautions if you will be putting up a live tree:

- Choose a fresh tree, they are less likely to catch fire.
- Keep your tree away from heat sources - fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents, etc.
- Keep the tree base filled with water.
- Don't forget to turn your tree lights off each night.
- When your tree begins to drop its needles, it's time to take it down.

Another indoor fire hazard is space heaters. Make sure yours is placed away from flammable materials. Try to get one that will turn off automatically if it tips over.

Check out the National Fire Protection Association for more information on how to stay safe at www.nfpa.org. ■

The Future of HRAA Depends on YOU!

The Huber Ridge Area Association will have leadership opportunities available in 2020. Is it YOUR time to step up?

The survival of the Huber Ridge Area Association depends on our ability to identify leadership for it. Without having this basic structure in place, the association will cease to be an organization which also means all of the events, programs and activities funded by the HRAA will also cease to be. For the first time in 18 years, we don't have an incumbent President running again for the office. Please consider stepping up to lead our dynamic organization. Maybe it is YOUR time to LEAD!

PRESIDENT Facilitate and plan our periodic association meetings according to HRAA bylaws. Drive and promote HRAA events, programs and activities, most of which already have coordinators.

VICE-PRESIDENT Step in to facilitate periodic meetings in absence of the President. Coordinate Spring and Fall Community Garage Sales.

SECRETARY Prepare agendas and minutes for our meetings

TREASURER Make deposits and write checks on behalf of the association. Create monthly report of all transactions.

These are the four elected offices of the Huber Ridge Area Association. In order to be a candidate for one of these offices, you must be a paid member of the HRAA. Becoming a member is easy, our dues is just \$15 per year and it can be paid using PayPal online on our website at www.huberridge.org or mail payment to Thom Conley at 3533 Makassar Drive.

Contact Eric Cordray, Nominating Committee Chair if you would like to run for any of these offices. His email is cordrayeric@gmail.com.



Ron Pesika
Representative

614-571-5554 mobile
rpesika@primerica.com
www.primerica.com/rpesika

*Helping families earn more income
and become properly protected, debt
free and financially independent*

Trash Issues?

One of the hot topics in the HRRA facebook group is missed trash pick-up. If you find that your trash doesn't get picked up on trash day, typically Friday except on holiday weeks, here is what you can do. You can also find this information at www.huberridge.org under the FAQ section.

1. Call Rumpke to report ASAP at 1-800-828-8171. Document the date and time of the call. Also document the outcome of the call (ex. left message on voicemail, spoke to a representative who indicated someone would be out to pick up my trash in the afternoon, etc.)

2. Email the township to report the missed pickup with the details of your contact with Rumpke. Send email to refuse@blendontwp.org. This email goes to the Blendon Township Administrative office where the staff reaches out to the route supervisor every time a service complaint is emailed to this address. ■

HUBER RIDGE AREA ASSOCIATION, INC.

www.huberridge.org

HRRA Officers

President: Carolyn Cordray
president@huberridge.org
Vice President: Marc Humker
vp@huberridge.org
Secretary: Victoria Griffin
secretary@huberridge.org
Treasurer: Julie Schantz
treasurer@huberridge.org

The Herald

Editor: Bernadine Pesika
bpesika@gmail.com
Assistant Editor: April Zobel
armzobel@gmail.com
Assistant Editor: Steve Zobel
slzobel@gmail.com

Committee Coordinators

Block Watch: Lynn White
blockwatch@huberridge.org
Membership: Thom Conley
dues@huberridge.org
Hospitality: Claudia Carney
hospitality@huberridge.org
Newsletter Distribution: Eric Cordray
newsletterdistribution@huberridge.org
Communications: Chris Stevko
communications@huberridge.org
Beautification: Lori Mann
beautification@huberridge.org
Historian: vacant position
Kiosks: Eric Cordray

ARE YOU ON FACEBOOK?

We are. Stay informed about what is happening in the area.

Huber Ridge Area Association
(Moderated Closed Group)

Huber Ridge Area Association News
(Community Page)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Police, non-emergency:
(614) 889-9494

Blendon Township Office:
(614) 882-1270

Local Experience

If you or someone you know is thinking about selling, contact me today!

I have lived in Huber Ridge for over 18 years. I shop where you shop, my children attended Westerville Schools; I know our area!

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- * **FREE** advice on pricing your home
- * **FREE** consultation on preparing/staging your home for sale
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- * Comprehensive Online Marketing: Multiple Listing Service; Zillow/Trulia, Realtor.com, Coldwellbanker-homes.com; Hundreds of websites including other brokerages websites

Whether you are looking to buy or sell, I have the time and experience to devote to you.



Liz Loew

614.679.7716

liz.loew@kingthompson.com
www.sellhighbuyLOEW.com



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