

**From the Desk of Your HRAA President, James Welch**

## Ohio American Water Company

What is Ohio American Water Company (OAWC)? OAWC is owned by American Water Company, which is owned by RWE, Inc., a German originated utility company.

In March 2007, the PUCO and OAWC reached an agreement for the proposed 21 percent increase applied for back in 2006. This stipulation and agreement gave OAWC permission to raise our rates for services a little less than 10 percent. As a community, we had a huge impact on that rate increase with letters from customers to the PUCO and a huge turnout at our PUCO public forum on December 5, 2006. During the application for this increase, American Water applied to the Securities and Exchange Commission to offer (sell) stock of American Water. The tentative date was set for September 2007. The date of September 2007 was pushed back later.

My belief is that we had an impact on this pushback. The negative feedback would drive the stock prices lower. Also, I believe OAWC needs to pad their bottom line to sell their stocks for the price they would like to see. To accomplish this, they need another increase and hence their application to raise rates in November 2007. This huge 31.86 percent application would make their bottom line a whole lot nicer.

We again can make a difference. But if the response to this increase is not as big as our last response, the impact will be greatly diminished. We are asking every customer of OAWC to write to the PUCO and Governor Ted Stickland. You do not have to be a great writer or have a lot of facts. Just say, "NO INCREASE—Enough is enough!" or whatever you feel. We are asking the PUCO for a public hearing again this year; please make plans to attend. The bigger the turnout, the better the impact.

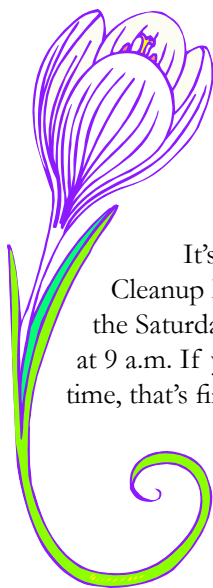
This public hearing date, time, and place will be announced later when we get it approved/scheduled with the PUCO. Please keep your eyes peeled on our kiosks and website, [www.huberridge.org](http://www.huberridge.org), for this upcoming date.

As always, keep checking our website for other pertinent information/updates about this absurd increase. In the

meantime, help us help you. Get your letters mailed. Sign and circulate petitions if you can. Let's make *another* difference.

Thank you!

—Jim Welch, President



## Let's Give Ridgewood Park a Spring Cleanup on April 19!

It's time again for the Ridgewood Park Cleanup Day. This year it will be held on April 19, the Saturday before Earth Day. We will start working at 9 a.m. If you can't come at 9 or can't stay the whole time, that's fine! Just come when you can.

The Huber Ridge Area Association will provide a picnic lunch. Work will continue into the afternoon. Volunteers are needed. We'll have some fun and make the park ready for summer! And it's a great way to get to know our neighbors.

Projects planned are

- ✂ spruce up the playground area (remove weeds, mulch, sand and/or paint toys).
- ✂ mulch the path in the woods and around trees, etc. in the park.
- ✂ pick up litter.
- ✂ eliminate poison ivy around the perimeter of the woods.
- ✂ freshen the paint on the outside of the shelter.
- ✂ build and install a plastic bag holder.

Dress for the weather and the tasks. Bring gardening supplies if you can. See the HRAA website ([www.huberridge.org](http://www.huberridge.org)) for a list of supplies.

Last year we had 65 people from the neighborhood including members of Junior Girl Scout Troop 1870, Brownie Troop 1704, and Boy Scout Troop 560. This year we hope to break that record with your help!

Call Lori Mann at 882-3795 if you have questions or want to donate food or supplies.

—Lori Mann, Park Cleanup Day Coordinator

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## New Law Effective March 5, 2008, Helps Townships Deal with Junk Vehicles and Property Nuisances Junk Vehicles

Ohio House Bill 50, signed into law by Governor Ted Strickland in December 2007, will now give townships the authority to tow junk vehicles; borrow money when necessary to do so; and when applicable, recapture the expense by assessing the taxes of the private property owner.

The law defines a junk vehicle as one being at least three years old, inoperable, and having a value of less than \$1,500.

The procedure would require our trustees to first make a resolution to remove the determined junk vehicle. If the junk vehicle is on public property, the board of trustees may pro-

vide in the resolution for immediate removal of the vehicle.

If the determined junk motor vehicle is on private property, upon notification to the owner by certified mail, return receipt requested, then the owner has 14 days to remove the vehicle. If the vehicle is not removed within 14 days, the township has the authority to remove it. The cost of removal shall become a lien upon the property from the date of entry.

Other details relevant to this law are directed to the board of trustees. (See House Bill 50, Sec. 505.871.)

### Property Nuisances

Sec. 505.87 of House Bill 50 states that a board of trustees may provide for the abatement, control, or removal of vegetation, garbage, refuse, and other debris from land in the township if the board determines that the owner's maintenance of the aforementioned constitutes a nuisance.

At least seven days before providing for the abatement, control, or removal, the board shall notify the owner of the land and any holders of liens of record upon the land that:

1. The owner is ordered to abate, control, or remove the vegetation, garbage, refuse, or other debris determined to be a nuisance.
2. If that vegetation, garbage, refuse, or other debris is not abated, controlled, or removed within seven days, the board of trustees shall provide for the abatement, control, or removal; and any expenses incurred by the board in performing that task shall be entered upon the tax duplicate and become a lien upon the property from the date of entry.

Procedure requires the board to send notice to the owner of the land if the owner is a township resident or is a non-resident whose address is known and by certified mail to lien holders of record. Again, the board must follow other procedures noted in Sec. 505.87.

These new laws should aid townships (Blendon Township) in cleaning up nuisances.

—Pam Clegg, Block Watch Coordinator

## Do You Have a Question? an Idea? a Concern?

Beginning with the summer edition of this newsletter, there will be a *new* "Letters to the Editor" column. Your Huber Ridge Area Association Executive Committee is seeking your input about matters that are of importance to the residents of Huber Ridge.

E-mail your question, idea, or concern to [editor@huber-ridge.org](mailto:editor@huber-ridge.org) or write to Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor, 5436 Acapulco Place, Westerville, OH 43081-4301. The Executive Committee will print as many of your questions, ideas, and

concerns as space permits. We do ask that all letters submitted for publication include your name and address; we reserve the right to edit letters if space constraints require it.

Log on or pick up your pen and let us hear from you today!

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor

## Because You Asked, We Asked ... and This is What the Experts said about a “Pooper Scooper” Ordinance

Some neighbors recently sought the help of the HRAA about how they could deal with dog feces in their yard left from dogs other than their own. The complaint points to what is commonly known as a pooper scooper ordinance. An excerpt of the complaint follows:

We are having a horrible time [with] people letting their dogs go to the bathroom in the front yards of the neighborhood and not picking up after them. I can look outside right now and see at least 25 piles of dog poop sitting all across [my front yard] and [the piles are huge]. It is getting extremely upsetting. It is to the point I won't let the kids run in the front yard because they are always stepping in it.

We asked Mike Adair, Registered Sanitarian with the Franklin County Health Department, for an answer. He wrote,

Unfortunately our manure regulation is written in such a way that it makes it very difficult to enforce in these sorts of situations. If I were to respond to the complaint, all I would see is a pile with no idea of what dog in the neighborhood it came from. Typically the regulation is more applicable to property owners who allow their pet's (or livestock's) waste to

accumulate in their own yard.

Mike is saying that the Franklin County Health Department **can enforce** a complaint of manure (feces) in the yard of a pet owner who does not clean up after his own pet's waste in his own yard. He is also saying that it would be difficult for health inspectors to cite a dog owner for failure to pick up after his animal apart from his property. A health inspector would have to witness the act, which is unlikely.

But Mike did provide the following

for our education and health benefits. He said he would



... support any effort by the Township to enact a pooper scooper ordinance or education program by pointing out the public health concerns of allowing feces to accumulate in a neighborhood. **Feces will attract flies, and flies can spread disease. Animal waste is also a food source for rats.** [Emphasis mine.] Encouraging pet owners to clean up by placing waste bins and bag dispensers in parks has proven to be very effective .... At this point, I would encourage the woman with the problem to clean up the piles, even though they are not from her pet, for the safety of her children and family.

The Trustees are considering Mike's offer to educate the community and his suggestion of placing bag dispensers in parks, specifically Ridgewood Park, in conjunction with the annual park cleanup. Biodegradable bags would help the environment. The Trustees plan to check with Mike Adair, Franklin County Board of Health, about drafting an ordinance. Let's do our part to have a healthy community.

—Pam Clegg, Block Watch Coordinator

### DONLEY E. STRONG

Certified Public Accountant

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## April 5, 2008, Block Watch Training Open to the Community— “New Age” Gang Awareness Training

Did you know that there are 97 gangs known to operate in Franklin County? Some are in our suburban middle and high schools. There are at least two female gangs as well as hate groups and motorcycle clubs. And they are recruiting children as young as 8 or 9 years old!

To learn more about these gangs and if they operate in Huber Ridge, mark your calendar for Saturday, April 5, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Come to Faith Covenant Church, 3607 Dempsey Road. This event is free of charge. Refreshments courtesy of HRAA members.

This year's block watch training is offered to all who are

interested in learning how to recognize the effects of gangs in the community and on our children. The Franklin County Sheriff's office will conduct this gang awareness training for adults entitled “New Age.” Conditions permitting, Sergeant Branch Wayt of our Blendon Township Police Department will also provide his insight and expertise into how gangs might be infiltrating or affecting Huber Ridge.

**Please plan to attend.** For more information, contact Pam Clegg, 891-9176, or e-mail [blockwatch@huberridge.org](mailto:blockwatch@huberridge.org).

—Pam Clegg, Block Watch Coordinator

## Please Help Our Police and Fire Departments

Hopefully you will never need the services of our police and fire departments. For those of you who have used these services, you already know how good our police and fire service and personnel are.

It has come to my attention lately that when you call for either service and need a speedy response time, they are finding it hard to find you. Blendon Township has, in the past, painted curbs with house numbers; but some have been rubbed off. Some are parked in front of; and in the fall/winter, leaves and snow cover them. They also are small and hard to locate and read in a hurry.

The police and fire departments and I are asking you to help. Please check your house to see if your numbers are readable and accessible from the street. Remember when seconds/minutes count and your life or someone else's life may be on the line, a legible, readable house number may make a difference.

A thing as simple as making sure your house numbers are easily identifiable can make a huge difference. The cost is very minimal. A small job can help our first responders help us.

Sometimes the simple things make a big difference. This weekend, check your house numbers.

—Jim Welch, President



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**(614) 839-2300**



## Block Watch Street Representatives

Area	Street	House	Name(s)	Phone
A	Arnett Ct.	3361	Bill and Gloria Cochenour	882-2639
	Dahlgreen Dr.	3525	Mindy March	523-3184
	Dempsey Rd. (3352-3547)	3473	Era McMahon	891-5312
	Hunt Club Rd., N.	3378	Emily Patterson	899-3742
	Montford Rd., W.	6365	Jeannie Kosinski, Travis MacKowiak	818-9220
B	Balboa Pl.	3815	Karen Boley	523-3006
	Batavia Rd.	6101	Debb Candow	728-6817
	Paris Bl., N.	6084	Joellen Lugin	882-0030
C	Canberra Ct.	3515	Edwin England	794-3049
	Dakar Rd., E.	5903	George King	
	Paris Blvd. (3370-3496)	3463	Wayne and Jenny Carr	899-7373
	Rangoon Dr.	3510	Lori Mann	882-3795
	Saigon Dr.	3505	Jim and Amber Chill*	882-4220
D	Bangasi Rd.	5971	Paul and Robin Wagner	392-0091
	Bangasi Rd.	5943	Melanie Kopacsi	
	Karikal Dr.	3582	Janet Brown*	882-8684
	Karikal Dr.	3581	Merry Neff	804-7426
	Makassar Dr.	3614	Pam Clegg	891-9176
	Manila Dr. (3477-3551)	3480	Matt and Jackie Shumaker	895-8184
	Buenos Aires North of Paris	5788	Lynn Hays	599-3647
E	Caracas Dr.	3688	Barbara Muldrew	818-2712
	Caracas Dr.	3734	Eric and Carolyn Cordray	882-1310
	Paris Bl. (3625-3695)	3677	Patricia Spencer	895-0845
	Paris Bl., E. (3699-3752)	3723	Dorothy Crawford	882-8243
	Acapulco Pl.	5455	Lou Dunbar	882-0376
F	Copenhagen Dr.	5520	Bill and June Riggs	890-6070
	Madrid Dr. (5519-5610)	5625	Ralph and Judy Barrell	882-5298
	Madrid Dr. (3525-3620)	3599	Kathy Ridgway	899-9690
	Oslo Dr.	5561	Sharon Ricker*	891-1881
	Panama Dr. (3515-3622 West)	3515	Betsy Briggs	203-5404
	Stockholm Rd.	3578	Leslie Jordan	823-6496
	Bashaw Dr.	5680	Cheri Gray	899-0785
G	Bashaw Dr.	5663	Brent Sheffer	818-9324
	Bogota Dr.	3706	Nicholas Halliwell*	946-7615
	Managua Dr.	3668	Andrea Wei	890-8187
	Managua Dr.	3705	Frances Corkrean	890-1825
	Mexico Ave.	3661	Michelle Baum	895-9601
	Natalie Ct.	5652	Amy McCarthy	899-7859
	Santiago Dr.	3686	Daisy White	948-0635
	Spohn Ct. and Dr.	5601	Robin Thomas	891-2722
	Spohn Dr.	5614	Rae Robinson	895-2943

\* Area Representative

If your street is not listed, we need you! E-mail [blockwatch@huberridge.org](mailto:blockwatch@huberridge.org) or call 891-9176.



## Carsonie's Italian Restaurant

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Expires on May 31, 2008

## 2008 Huber Area Home Sales Keeping Pace

Huber Ridge area home sales appear to be keeping pace with sales over the same period last year.

New neighbors, welcome! Hopefully you've received your welcome letter from our committee and are able to visit the Welcome Reception held monthly at 6 p.m. just before our Association meeting the first Thursday of each month at the Blendon Senior Center. We'd love to meet you and give you a little gift from the HRAA to welcome you to the area. Please feel free to attend any Welcome Reception if you're new to the neighborhood and have not yet received a Welcome Bag or if you'd like to meet new neighbors!

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

### November Sales (from November 27, 2007, through the end of the month):

Kristy and Joseph Sherwood, 6339 Montford Rd., W.

### December Sales:

William H. Grooms, 6025 Dakar Rd., E.

### January Sales:

April R. Massie, 3429 Brazzaville Rd.

James D. and Joyce E. Turner, 6218 Carthage Dr.

Dale R. Stufflebeam, 5585 Spohn Dr.

Paula V. Olortiga, 3480 Dempsey Rd.

Mathew N. and Christina Rannebarger, 3733 Paris Blvd., E.

### February Sales (through February 14, 2008, only):

Jason and Shannon Cunningham, 6350 Hunt Club Rd., W.

Deanna L. Cox, 6100 Paris Blvd., N.

Matthew S. and Hillary A. Harper, 3300 Reno Rd.

Brian D. Treaster, 3765 Lima Dr.

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

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

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

—Carolyn Cordray, Welcome Committee Coordinator

## Welcome Committee Refreshes Program

The Welcome Committee has re-tooled the process for reaching out to new residents with great hope that more new neighbors will receive an official welcome from the HRAA.

The program now features a welcome letter sent directly to the homes of our new neighbors; it not only highlights some of the activities offered to residents but also invites them to a Welcome Reception. This reception is held each month at 6 p.m.—just prior to the HRAA general meeting—

at the Blendon Senior Center. New neighbors attending the reception will receive a gift of a Welcome Bag from the Association and will have an opportunity to meet other neighbors in the Association.

The Welcome Committee hopes that this new process will not only more reliably reach more new neighbors but also provide an opportunity for them to engage in a reception and possibly stay for a meeting to learn more about the HRAA.

—Carolyn Cordray, Welcome Committee Coordinator

## HRAA Election Results

Huber Ridge Area Association officers for 2008 were elected at the January 3 general meeting.

President James Welch and Newsletter Editor Marje Obrist were re-elected for another year. Vice President Tom Burke, Secretary Jenny Carr, and Treasurer Eric Cordray will serve in their respective offices for the first time this year.

We appreciate Brian McMahon, who served as Vice President in 2007; Era McMahon, who served as Secretary in 2007; and Brent Sheffer, who served as Treasurer since the re-establishment of the HRAA in 2005. Their service has helped the Huber Ridge Area Association to grow and thrive.

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor

## Looking Forward to Spring Plant Swap

The HRAA's Third Annual Spring Slip and Seed Swap is scheduled for Saturday, May 10, from 9 a.m. to noon at Ridgewood Park. Although this event has been named with a tongue twister of a title, basically this is a neighborhood plant swap. As we have done in the past, we encourage neighborhood gardeners to bring excess plant material to the Park that morning to swap with other neighbors. We have found that it's a fun way for neighbors to connect with other gardeners and meet new people.

Last year we had quite a bit of plant material and were able to do some planting in the Park. Many of those plants were placed around the map of the walking path and light pole so we expect to see a burst of color there this spring. Neighborhood children who were playing in the Park that day also chipped in with the work by collecting rocks to place around these beds.

As you may have noticed, new flowerbeds were, at that time, added to the entranceway to Ridgewood Park. Association members spread the dirt and mulch provided by Blendon Township. The HRAA then funded some initial shrubs, grasses, and flowers that were planted in those beds last year.

***Let us put our heads together,  
and we'll come up with the perfect solution  
for your real estate needs!***



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at 402-7317 or 899-1400 or visit our website:  
[www.CrawfordsHomeTeam.com](http://www.CrawfordsHomeTeam.com).**



Additionally, the HRAA received two extremely generous plant material donations from Stewart Flaherty, Blendon Township resident and Trustee. He donated a couple of boxes full of hostas that were planted along the backsides of the entranceway flowerbeds; the hostas should help to stabilize the part of those gardens going down the hill. Also, in the fall of 2007, Mr. Flaherty, an ardent gardener himself, donated hundreds of crocus and daffodil bulbs to the HRAA. These bulbs were planted in flowerbeds at the park entrance and some at the Welcome to the Huber Ridge Area sign at 161 and Buenos Aires. Thanks to Mr. Flaherty's donations and personal investment in our neighborhood, we all can expect to enjoy some lovely spring flowers in those beds.

Please plan to join us this year for the plant swap! You don't have to bring any plant material to take part as there is always plenty to go around. It's a wonderful time to get some new and interesting plants for your own gardens and meet neighbors who also like to garden. Hope to see you there!

—Carolyn Cordray, Spring Slip and Seed Swap Coordinator





Faith Covenant Church  
Vacation Bible School 2008

# Trusting God in the Waves

June 23 to June 27  
9:15 am to Noon  
Ages 4 yrs. to 6th Grade  
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P: 614.865.0791  
Sunday Worship 11 AM

Summer  
Worship Hours  
Begin June 15 @  
10AM

## “Huber Ridge Blooms” First Annual Garden Show

Gardeners, get ready to shine and show off your work to the community. June 28 and 29 will mark the first annual Huber Ridge Area Association sponsored gardening contest/show to encourage and reward beautification in the Huber Ridge area.

Entries may be competitive or non-competitive. Cash prizes and others will be awarded to those who enter competitively, but even non-competitive entrants will be recognized in our fall newsletter and on our website. All competitive entries will be judged by committee members Pam Clegg, Carolyn Cordray, and Marje Obrist. Landscaping will be considered as well as theme gardens, uniqueness, and gardener's expression. We are looking forward to seeing gardens with colorful flowers, various themes, fountains, plant collections, and even vegetables.

To be a part of this event, gardeners should call or e-mail Pam Clegg, 891-9176, [blockwatch@huberridge.org](mailto:blockwatch@huberridge.org) by June 14. Please indicate whether your entry is competitive or non-competitive. You must live in the Huber Ridge area. There is no entry fee. If you are interested in allowing residents to tour your garden, you must also let us know by June 14. We will post the tour addresses on our website and seek newspaper coverage as well. You do not have to enter competitively to be a part of the tour.

—Pam Clegg, Block Watch Coordinator

## Need Help to Get Rid of the Winter Blues?

For the past few years, we have been getting together to walk or run. We call ourselves the Soaring Eagles. Our goal is to help one another to get moving.

Here are some reasons why we get together to walk or run:

- ☒ Get in Shape/Stay in Shape
- ☒ Get Healthy/Stay Healthy
- ☒ Get Strong/Stay Strong
- ☒ Lose Weight
- ☒ Accomplish a Goal
- ☒ Relieve Stress
- ☒ Keep Cholesterol Down
- ☒ Take Care of Your Body
- ☒ Clear Your Mind
- ☒ Keep Depression Away
- ☒ Get Fresh Air and Sunshine
- ☒ It's Fun
- ☒ Enjoy Nature
- ☒ Talk to Friends While You Walk/Run
- ☒ Talk to God While You Walk/Run

Why walk or run with a group? Walking or running with others is a great way to get motivated and stay motivated to get moving and exercise. Having a group to encourage you can help you get going especially on those days when you don't feel like exercising by yourself. Plus, you can be an encouragement to others, too! Anyone can participate—walkers, slow runners, in-between runners—just come and get moving!

We try to get together once during the week and then once on the weekend.

### Motivating and Fun Goals

Each year, we plan to participate in some walking/running events to keep us motivated. We will form some relay teams made up of 5 people. Each person will walk or run a



leg of the race. Here are two events that have relay teams we can participate in:

- ☑ The Kentucky Derby Marathon, Louisville, KY, April 26, 2008, Saturday, \$35 per person, register by April 18, 2008.
- ☑ Road Runner Akron Marathon, Akron, OH, September 27, 2008, Saturday, \$34 per person, register by September 24, 2008.

There are also individual events we can participate in like the Columbus Mini 15K, Hilliard Darby High School, July 13, 2008, Sunday, \$30 per person, register by June 15, 2008.

Contact Doug Dapo at (614) 901-0070, [dougdapo@yahoo.com](mailto:dougdapo@yahoo.com), if you are interested in getting together to walk or run. We plan to get together soon for a kick-off meeting to start.

—Doug Dapo, Neighbor

**[www.huberridge.org](http://www.huberridge.org)**

[www.huberridge.org](http://www.huberridge.org) is your community website. Many of you use it. In December, we posted 3,211 hits; in January, 3,733 hits; and in February, 2,339 hits.

The HRAA tries to keep this website up to date weekly. Our Community Calendar posts events and meetings pertaining to our community and the surrounding area. Police & Safety posts services and information to keep you informed and your family safer—including a weekly updated police report for the community and a hotlink to eSORN to check for sexual offenders.

Community Pages has articles of interest including the Ohio American Water Company rate increase progress, monthly events, street cleaning dates with tips, and anything that pertains to helping the community grow in a better direction.

The Discussion Forums allows for comments and feedback—a chance to communicate with the community. Although Neighborhood Link has recently reconstructed this area, it is still very useful. Please give it some time to see how it works out and please feel free to use it.

Finally, we have several hotlinks in the lower right part of the screen called Community Links. There you will find links to several websites of interest, e.g., emerald ash borer information, the PUCO, the OCC, Blendon Township, Westerville Public Schools, and Westerville Parks and Recreation.

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—Jim Welch, President

## HRAA T-Shirts Available

Help support your neighborhood, your community, and your association. Your HRAA has t-shirts for sale with the HRAA logo and HRAA colors all on a quality gray shirt—gray because we all know how white turns out with our water supplier. These shirts are sized from medium to x-large.

Support your association which supports our community. I do not care if you use the t-shirt for firewood, a night shirt, or a cleaning cloth or if you wear it proudly. A little over a dollar a shirt is profit and goes into our general fund to support the activities of our community. These great shirts are only \$10 each.

Your HRAA t-shirt can be purchased at any HRAA monthly meeting (the first Thursday of every month) or HRAA sponsored function or by contacting me at 882-8959 or at [president@huberridge.org](mailto:president@huberridge.org).

—Jim Welch, President

## A Tip from Sgt. Wayt ...

Is your biggest investment your home? In most cases, it is. By helping in basic crime prevention measures, you may be able to increase the value of your property. The Blendon Township Police Department receives many calls about environment crimes/complaints. The complaints are typically zoning issues: however, being a community policing agency, we field the initial calls. The most common complaint is the general appearance of the outside of a neighboring house. Junk cars, high grass, and “trashy” yards may reduce the value of not only your neighbor’s home but also yours. Please “spring clean” your property to help reduce the areas of concern. Any resident having issues about a particular area should contact the Franklin County Zoning enforcement at 462-3094 or the Police Department at 882-8500 for proper action.



—Sgt. Branch S. Wayt, Blendon Township Police



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## The Beginnings

[Editor's note: The author of this article, Almina Wiebell, is one of the earliest residents of Huber Ridge and is its unofficial historian. She spoke about Huber Ridge history at the January 25 meeting of the Westerville Historical Society and has generously allowed us to publish the information she has written about our community.]

Over the years, I've been asked why and how I came to live in Huber Ridge. Well, my husband at that time, myself, and 5 children lived in a 4-room duplex. It wasn't our imagination that it seemed to be wall-to-wall cribs, highchairs, and playpens!!!

In the summer of 1961, we—as many young couples did—learned about “Huber Homes.” We came to look at the model homes off 161 at the top of the hill, which then would become Buenos Aires Boulevard and Harbin Court. We chose the model home we liked and the lot. We never dreamed we could own our own home, but Charles Huber made that possible. On December 4, 1961, almost 47 years ago, we were among the very first families to move in at 5519 Oslo Drive.

We had a sturdy brick home with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, and a garage. The walls and floors required no immediate painting or carpeting. We had an extra large lot with the front and half of the back sodded along with bushes and a tree planted. Best of all, the price was right. For our model, it was \$15,995.00!! Our monthly mortgage payment was \$88.45!! Can you imagine?

Charles Huber also provided us with sidewalks, street lights, and an elementary school.

So where trees, hills, and farm areas once stood in 1960, by 1961, 200 homes stood. Mr. Alan Robinson, 70 years young when I spoke with him years ago, was an early settler to this area. He told me that in 1952 it was just brush and briars. He cleared the land and raised food staples—corn, wheat, etc., and 100 white faced Herefords!!!

Two original farm homes still remain in the Ridge located at 3695 Santiago Drive and 3710 Harbin Court. Across 161 where Strawberry Farms is now located, there used to be a Girl Scout Camp, which burned down in the mid '60s.

The first residents, in September of 1961, were Nick and Sally DeCenzo, who resided at 5648 Buenos Aires Boulevard.

When we first came to look at the model homes, there were trees everywhere! It never occurred to us that they would all be cleared away during construction, and we just had a little stick of a tree in the front yard. We were disappointed but would come to find out that was the **least** of our problems!

We were fortunate to have a lot of “perks” in the early years. Among them was the daily delivery by the “milkman”

provided by the Westerville Creamery, which then became the Borden Co.

A “bookmobile” was provided by the Westerville Public Library. It started in 1957 and went to the different schools in Westerville. Since Huber Ridge School was not completed, the “bookmobile” stopped on different streets with a wide variety of books from which to choose. We enjoyed this service until 1963 when, due to lack of sufficient funds, it was discontinued.

The Glengary Pool, which was spring fed, provided many summers of swimming and swim lessons. It opened on September 14, 1929. Helen Daily, voted the most popular girl at Westerville High School, was selected to christen the pool. She dove in, swam to the platform located at the center of the pool, then emptied a vial of distilled water from the Otterbein Lab into the pool. It was the only pool for miles around for many years and unfortunately closed in the '70s. The Jaycees then opened a pool in 1970.

The only business establishments at that time, 1961, were the Blendon Motel, a small store which carried essentials and where you could get coffee and sandwiches, and one gas station called Conkels right across from the Blendon Motel.

If you blinked your eyes as you drove across Schrock Road, you'd miss Roush Hardware, a barbershop, Rhodes Meat Market, and the Westerville Bowling Alley.

As time went on, some stores opened up in what is known today as the Glengary Shopping Center: Gateway, a



*This welcome sign at the south end of Buenos Aires Boulevard was purchased by the “old” Huber Ridge Civic Association and was recently repainted by Tom Burke and landscaped by Eric and Carolyn Cordray.*



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8-ball at 8 p.m. \$10 Entry

**TUESDAYS**

\$2.00 Long Islands & Margaritas

**WEDNESDAYS**

Free Pool on Wednesdays

**ALL AGES  
UNTIL 6 P.M.**

**THURSDAYS**

Ladies Night

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\$2.00 Specialty Shots

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Long Islands & Margaritas

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Party Space Available

grocery store; Dane Drugs, Glengary Cleaners; and the Jerry Lewis Cinema!

At one time a barricade was put up at the corner of 3C and Brazzaville preventing the residents from getting onto 3C Highway and also having access to the stores. This occurred after 1974 and was quickly corrected.

## Families

Families from almost every state—not to mention countries such as Germany, England, Austria, Iran, Korea, France, and Cuba—came to reside in Huber Ridge. They brought with them numerous customs, traditions, vocations, professions, talent, and ideas. But more importantly they brought interest, enthusiasm, and spirit! Through their combined efforts and energy, necessary groups and organizations were formed. They not only benefit our area but the Westerville community as well!!!

## Noteworthy Individuals

In the early 1960s, Dr. Joseph R. Amico opened his office at the corner of Paris Boulevard and 3C Highway. He became a beloved family doctor to many of our residents and practiced medicine at that location for 30 years. Presently his

daughter practices medicine at that same location.

Jerry Walkins, a resident on Saigon Drive from 1964 to 1970, was branch manager for Acme Records. He organized the Pee Wee Football Program among many other voluntary endeavors. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Jaycees in 1967.

Barbara Boylan still resides on Paris Boulevard. She was instrumental in forming the Curtain Players, serving as President and Director. She was regarded as one of the finest in-club directors of any little theatre group in Columbus. She started working with Curtain Players in 1962 and continued for many years. Curtain Players still exists today and is located on Harlem Rd.

Dick Near was a resident on Panama Drive and one of Wendy's executives. Wendy's main headquarters used to be located in uptown Westerville. He also was a charter member of the Curtain Players and served as the group's first President.

Mike Collins was a resident on Carthage Drive and was employed by the Franklin County Engineering Department. He was instrumental in the organization of the Junior Boys Baseball League and served as Commissioner of same. He devoted many man hours making sure of safety conditions for the 800 boys involved.

Len Delehanty was a resident on Panama Drive and President of Stokely Van Camp. He learned of a doctor and a trainer living in Florida who created a sports drink. He contact them and arranged for the rights to same—thus Gatorade was born!!!

Charlie Triacheff was active for many years with Cub Scout Pack 65 and Boy Scout Troop 700. He spent many hours working with these boys to help them build character, citizenship, friendship, and courtesy to one another! He was affectionately called "BEAR." The following tribute was written for him:

To numerous boys in our areas and their parents  
this man is:

Ten feet tall

And smart as he can be:

He teaches boys how to hike and camp,

And how to plant a tree;

He teaches them how to pack a pack,

And how to pitch a tent;

And he never gets a penny for the hours

That he's spent!

Of a day he takes them down the narrow trails

The pioneers have trod;

At night around the campfire, he

Brings them close to God.

He gives his best for boys



Who follow his same trail,  
and BE PREPARED to meet life's tests  
And seldom ever fail.

Many individuals gave of their time and efforts for the children in our community. For example, Tom Carlson of Oslo Drive devoted 30 years to the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. Ann Laub formerly of Stockholm Drive gave much time and talent to the Girl Scouts.

## Early Churches

The first pastor of Grace Baptist Church, 3475 Paris Boulevard, was James Lee, who moved here from California. He started with a congregation of 7 at the Grange Hall and then 50 at Huber Ridge School. Land was purchased in 1968.

Pastor Lee was an interesting man, who became pastor later in life. His everyday life as a youngster included friends and actors—Buck Jones, Roy Rogers, and Gene Autry! At the age of 4, he had a small role in the “Our Gang” series, herding geese across the road.

By May 1972, the newly built church was dedicated. One hundred fifteen families made up the congregation.

Adult classes for sign language for the deaf were held in January 1972. Being way ahead of the times, they were prepared for the growing number of deaf members joining the church.

Today their new worship center can accommodate 800 to 900 people. They also have classrooms, nurseries, a study, a church office, and kitchen facilities.

They presently have 250 members, who include many Russian families and ethnic groups. They conduct weekly Russian services. Pastor J. Murray Murdock is the fourth pastor.

Land for the Huber Ridge Christian Union church, 5411 Buenos Aires Boulevard, was purchased in 1966. In January of 1967, the first service was held under the direction of the first pastor, Weldon Stockwell. Pastor Robert Chroninger served for 21 years.

The building has had 2 additions with a kitchen where they hold dinners. Bob Simpson has been pastor for the past 8 years. Presently there are 19 members with services twice a week.

—Almina Wiebell, Neighbor

## Your Community's Heart

When Jean and I were looking for our home, we found a great home. What we did not know is that we found great neighbors, a great neighborhood, and a great community. We discovered this shortly after moving in.

Over the last 7 years of living here and the last 2 ½ years of being President of your Huber Ridge Area Association

(HRAA), I have seen the generosity, love, and devotion of the residents of the HRAA displayed in many ways. Your neighbors have made a difference in this community. The Association could not have made any of its accomplishments or would not exist if it were not for the devotion and generosity of your neighbors for this community and its residents.

A recent story tells the unselfishness of your neighbors/community. The story is about me and my fiancée (Jean), but it says why we love this community and our neighbors.

The day after Thanksgiving (Friday), Jean went for her annual mammogram. The following Monday, the testing facility called to retest again that Wednesday. Fortunately, I was off work so we went for the retest. We were called into the office of the head physician. She showed the last couple years' test results and then showed this year's test results. Present in front of us were 3 large lumps in this year's results. Immediately she called a specialist, and we were off to see Dr. Lilly at Riverside Breast Specialists with the tests. A core sample was taken, and Jean was diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer.

Many different tests followed during the next 2 weeks; a right mastectomy on December 10 revealed 7 tumors, and 24 lymph nodes were removed. Chemotherapy followed starting on January 5, Jean's birthday.

Though the surgery and chemotherapy have been really tough, we never kept it a secret. Cancer is not discriminatory; and awareness and early detection are the key.

Immediately following the surgery, friends, neighbors, and the community showed their great hearts; and meals were brought daily for a week. Rides to the doctors and chemotherapy were provided. Prayers were said. I won't try to list names or the generosity/love shown because none was too small and I fear omitting a name. There are no words that can express our gratitude to the great friends and neighbors and to this community.

You see the size of a person's heart during times like this. We have seen a community's heart during this time of our lives. We have never asked for anything, but the community came together in support of us.

Jean's treatment continues and will go on for a long time. I have left out a lot of details and abbreviated this story because it is not an article about Jean and me.

This story was written to show one of the many unselfish acts your neighbors and community perform. Almost on a daily basis, someone in this community is doing something for the community. These acts are done from the heart. No paycheck! No benefits! Many of these acts go unrecognized. Some are recognized like the Ridgewood Park Cleanup and the Halloween party. The time to plan and execute these events starts months in advance. Just in the last few months,



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I have witnessed residents walking through the Park picking up trash, neighbors raking neighbors' leaves, and neighbors shoveling neighbors' walks and driveways. All of these acts are what makes this community a community instead of just another housing development.

To everyone who supported and gave during our misfortune, thank you! Remember early detection is the best key for survival.

To everyone who has given of their time and money to the community, thank you! Your efforts and acts of kindness do not go unnoticed. The size of individuals' and this community's hearts is showing. Community pride is making a comeback.

This is your community and your association. You can and do make a difference.

—Jim Welch, President

## Fast Food Fare Practices to watch for:

We all know that Westerville is upscale and progressive, so we're sure each fast food establishment serves its food using

every "food handler" rule in the books. Well, I have some how-not-to-do stories to tell and a suggestion that we have some work to do. But first let me say that I understand a few errors do not reflect the whole.

I love the convenience of fast food once in a while, so I have some consistent experience. Here are the stories, all from different establishments:

- ⊗ A woman at the cash register took my money, turned to our serving tray, and pushed back into the box the French fries that had fallen out—all with the same ungloved hand with which she took our money.
- ⊗ A woman behind the counter was preparing food with one gloved hand. Thinking that was clever, I watched. She picked up the meat with the gloved hand and picked up the bun and other raw foods with the ungloved hand. Not really so clever.
- ⊗ A man preparing food in the back area pulled out a tray of chicken pieces, put one in his mouth, and chomped. Because he didn't understand what I was saying as I complained to the manager (I spoke in English), he did the same thing with the manager watching!
- ⊗ A woman in the back area was cleaning out the meat trays with her gloved hand. She tossed the dirty paper in the wastebasket, then reached down and pushed the trash down with her gloved hand, and continued to work with the food.

I urge you to refuse food that is handled improperly and to let managers know when you see poor food handling practices. They need to know we are watching. You don't need to go to the next step of reporting it to the Franklin County Health Department if you would rather not. That's right, Westerville contracts with the Franklin County Health Department for food service licensure. One complaint is usually followed by an inspection visit.

### Buffets: Just a quick reminder.

When you take cold food from a buffet, take your portion from the bottom of the dish. That will assure that you get food that has been held at the coldest temperature—a requirement of the food service standards. If you should take hot food and it is not hot, don't eat it. Tell the manager.

I know these "advisories" are simple, and often you will feel as though you just don't have time to be bothered to wait on another order or to talk to a manager; but a great number of cases of food poisoning are caused by these infractions in the food handling rules. Very often the stomach cramps or diarrhea you have experienced was the result of this—your system is just strong enough to recover. That might not always be true.

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

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## No More Fleas, Please!

[Editor's note: The author of this article, Wendy McCullen Vermillion, DVM, is a professor of biological and physical sciences at Columbus State Community College; she has been following our newsletter on our website ([huberridge.org](http://huberridge.org)) and says, "...I have been thinking a lot about how much I enjoyed raising my kids in Huber Ridge. Both my boys and I always drive through the neighborhood whenever we are around Westerville, and Michael even has a framed picture of the park in his office to remind him of all the fun times!" Thank you, Dr. McCullen, for this pet piece.]

Fleas, ticks, and mites are all external parasites of our furry family members. Of these, fleas are by far the most common; and flea allergy dermatitis is the most common skin disease of dogs and cats. Fleas are a challenging problem because while the adult fleas cause most of the visible symptoms, the vast majority of the flea population (including eggs, larvae, and pupae) are found off the pets and in the carpets, floor boards, bedding, etc. The best and most effective flea control program will target all phases of the flea life cycle and not just the adults that you see on your pets. This year, many new products have become available; and understanding the flea life cycle (which can be completed as quickly as 16 days or as long as a year!) will help you and your veterinarian select the best one to suit your needs.

Flea eggs laid in the hair coat are ingeniously designed to fall off into the environment. Larvae then hatch and eat adult flea droppings that contain blood ("flea dirt"). The larvae spin cocoons (they love doing this within carpet fibers) for pupation. In this pupa stage, they can lie dormant for many months. They are stimulated to hatch into adults by vibration (think vacuum cleaner), warmth, and increased carbon dioxide (as released by pets and people). New adult fleas are mobile and can live days without a host. Once a host (you or your pets) is found, they hop on and begin feeding. After a blood meal has been taken, fleas can only survive a short time when removed from the host. Most fleas do not last more than 72 hours on an animal that is itching and able to groom itself.

Flea bites are an annoyance to all pets; but to those with flea allergy dermatitis, they can make life truly miserable. The flea-allergic dog or cat will bite and scratch to the point of breaking off hairs and excoriating the skin. This may allow secondary bacterial invaders to set up housekeeping, further promoting the scratch-itch-infection cycle. Most clinical signs of flea allergic dermatitis are first visible on the pet's back, usually above the tailhead. Even if no fleas are visible, scabby skin and hair loss in this region indicate fleas have been here. In very sensitive pets, a single bite can provoke a reaction.

Lastly, the flea is the intermediate host of tapeworms; so if your pet has had fleas, it likely has tapes as well. Tapeworm segments may be seen in your pet's droppings or stuck to the skin and hair under the tail. While these are normally not a problem for people, they may cause problems for your pets.

Your veterinarian is your pet's best friend when it comes to eliminating fleas and relieving flea-related problems. By examining your pet and discussing your family's needs, your vet will be able to design a flea program that will keep your pet a happy, healthy member of your household.

—Wendy McCullen Vermillion, DVM

## Editorial Guidelines for the Publication of THE HERALD Purpose

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

### Advertising Rates

Advertising rates are as follows:

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

## Are YOU Willing to Join HRAA in 2008?

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

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

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

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

—Eric Cordray, Treasurer

### HUBER RIDGE AREA ASSOCIATION 2008 MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

(Names of Adults)

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

(Street Address)

(Phone)

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

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

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

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>April 5</b>     | <b>Block Watch Training Session on Gangs at Faith Covenant Church from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.</b> |
| <b>April 10</b>    | <b>HRAA Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m. NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!</b>        |
| <b>April 19</b>    | <b>Ridgewood Park Cleanup Day at 9 a.m.</b>  |
| <b>May 1</b>       | <b>HRAA Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.</b>                             |
| <b>May 10</b>      | <b>Third Annual Spring Slip and Seed Swap at Ridgewood Park from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.</b>       |
| <b>June 5</b>      | <b>HRAA Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.</b>                             |
| <b>June 14</b>     | <b>Entry Deadline for Huber Ridge Blooms</b>   |
| <b>June 28-29</b>  | <b>Huber Ridge Blooms Garden Show/Contest</b>  |
| <b>July 12</b>     | <b>Community Garage Sale from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.</b>   |
| <b>September 1</b> | <b>Huber Ridge Labor Day Parade at 10 a.m.</b>   |



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