

Have You Lived in Huber Ridge Area at least 25 Years?

**Then come join your neighbors in the 1st Silver Celebration!
Saturday, February 27, 2010, at 5 p.m. at the Senior Center!**

Let's share pictures and fun stories about the old days and good food prepared and served by your neighbors.

Bet you didn't know we have a licensed chef in the Ridge!

All that with prizes, too!

Reservations **a must** by February 23:

Members \$7.50 each; Non-members \$8.50 each.

If you need a ride, please let us know. We'll take care of you!



Contact Rich and Jessica Rathkopf for reservations.
Call 614-772-1230 or email rmrathkopf@yahoo.com.

—Joya Neff, Membership Coordinator

OAWC Rate Increase: WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Ohio American Water Company (OAWC) applied for a third increase in as many years in June of 2009. This increase application to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) is for 60 percent over the next 3 years. Just as OAWC gathered together to apply for yet another increase, Steve Kennedy and I got together and looked at best and worst practices from the last two increases and started planning our opposition for yet another increase.

Continuing with some previous practices, our goal was to unite all Franklin County and the State of Ohio OAWC customers for opposing this increase. We looked at some previous increases applied for by sister American Water companies in other states and their results. We found Tennessee just significantly reduced an increase by Tennessee American Water from 30 percent to 4 percent with the help of Waterhouse, a public relations firm from Tennessee.

After consulting with Waterhouse and uniting several Franklin County communities, money was raised to retain Waterhouse to help oppose this increase. Prairie Township with limited home rule was the only township able to provide enough funding, \$24,999, to get the fight started. We knew that this funding was not enough to carry us through the whole increase application but would provide a great start.

fightthehikeohio.org was born. Every week community

leaders across Franklin County, representatives from Waterhouse, and I held phone conferences discussing and executing plans opposing OAWC's increase. We encouraged all OAWC customers to write their elected officials and the PUCO opposing this absurd increase.

During the last two increases, I have encouraged you to write letters of opposition to the PUCO and to our elected officials; and over 100 of you did. This has set the groundwork and has provided us with the ability to do more about this increase. Your letters in the past have recently gotten legislation on the table at the Statehouse to limit the amount of reimbursement from OAWC rate case applications to their consumers to 50 percent. This still needs passed but is a great start. Your previous opposition inspired State Representatives Marian Harris, District 19; Jay Goyal, District 73; Steven Dyer, District 43; and Deborah Newcomb, District

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99, to write a letter of opposition to the PUCO regarding the current increase.

The PUCO staff report came out November 27, 2009. This staff report was the best report we have ever received. To note a few facts from the report, the staff recommends a 5.85 to 7.27 percent increase for water and a 3.58 to 5.27 percent increase for sewers compared to the 60 percent OAWC applied for.

Staff concludes that the business model currently utilized at OAWC must be updated or altered. Cost growth trends that exceed the inflation rate and the customers' ability to pay relative to the rate of household income growth are unsustainable in the longer term (page 79).

Staff concludes that OAWC needs to change its business model to better control costs and to better reflect economic conditions in the market it serves (page 79).

Staff believes that costs have reached a serious point at OAWC where major processes need to be altered and institutional changes need to be implemented (page 79).

This report is due directly to your previous letters and attendance at the PUCO public hearings.

The current rate increase has seen a trend in the Huber Ridge area of very few letters to the PUCO or our elected officials compared to the last two. To date, the Huber Ridge letters to the PUCO total 19 compared to over 100 in the 2006 case and over 130 in the 2007 case. If this trend continues, we will lose what we have worked so hard to get—the attention of the PUCO and our elected officials.

While there may be several factors that have diminished the support from the community, I feel there was one that has had the biggest effect. Over the last few months, there has been a small group passing out flyers and speaking publicly about the campaign waged against these frequent, exorbitant OAWC increases stating, "Clearly this approach today has not been successful." Clearly this was a personal attack on me for personal gain, but also it was a statement against everyone who has written, attended hearings, or had any participation in the current or previous rate cases.

I have spent countless hours on these increases for the benefit of my family, friends, and neighbors, not for personal gain. I have led the opposition for you—our community. If you count my time divided by the money saved on my water/sewer bills, it would be a thousandth of a penny per hour earned. **The future of our township and its communities hinge a lot on what OAWC has done and is doing to it with the rates they charge.**

The PUCO staff report is a positive step in the direction we need to go; there still is a long way to go from here to the end of this rate case. Scheduled next are the PUCO public hearings and possible negotiations, and I believe this case will

go to trial before the PUCO commissioners. Then come the PUCO commissioners' rulings.

I have contacts with the PUCO, OCC, and State Representatives; they all state: the letters from the residents/customers have made a difference and will continue to do so if the public outcry remains. The squeaky wheel eventually gets the grease.

We need your letters of opposition. The PUCO staff needs support on their statements. The state elected officials need your support for possible legislation. You need to help put a nail in OAWC's coffin. From here we can find a better way to get rid of OAWC, but first we need to stop their forward motion—the destruction of our community.

Without your support (the letters of opposition and the attendance at the PUCO public hearings), the wheels of motion will halt. Besides the rate increases, there are several avenues being looked at currently to slow/stop OAWC and remove OAWC from several communities; these actions will halt without support also.

Please plan to attend the PUCO public forum; pack the house. I expect the PUCO to schedule these hearings for sometime in January. Watch the kiosks and our website, huberridge.org, and fightthehikeohio.org for details as they become available.


Let's keep the wheels in motion—the wheels we started to move 2 years ago. Write letters and attend the public hearings. There is a lot at stake now and in the near future; you can and do make a difference.

I am proud to be President of your association (your HRAA), to work tirelessly for you/our community, friends, and neighbors. This is our/your home, your community; and together we can and do make a difference.

Time is limited! Write letters of opposition to:

- ✉ Honorable Ted Strickland, Governor's Office, Riffe Center, 30th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-6108
- ✉ Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Docketing Division, 180 East Broad Street, 13th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-3793, Re: Case No. 09-391-WS-AIR
- ✉ Nancy Garland, State Representative, 77 South High Street, 12th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-6111
- ✉ Marian Harris, State Representative, 77 South High Street, 12th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-6111
- ✉ Senator David Goodman, Senate Building, Room 039, Ground Floor, Columbus, OH 43215

—Jim Welch, President



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Your New Blendon Township Trustees

Blendon Township residents were asked to go to the polls November 3 and cast two votes from a list of four qualified candidates for Trustee. Stew Flaherty, Jan Heichel, Alex Stallings, and Jim Welch were our choices. Many townships were not as lucky to have a long list of candidates to choose from. In fact, some townships were to elect two trustees but only had one person running. For two months, Blendon Township residents had an opportunity to attend candidate Q & A's, comb through numerous handouts, and read letters and articles in the local newspapers and the HRAA's *Herald*.

In the end, Blendon Township residents elected Jan Heichel and re-elected Stew Flaherty, two qualified candidates, to lead the Township for the next four years. There clearly were two winners, but there were no losers. Each candidate has demonstrated his or her ability and willingness to serve the public. Blendon Township has been moving forward because of the efforts of all of the candidates.

Congratulations to Mr. Flaherty and Mrs. Heichel. Continue to support them and keep them accountable by attending twice monthly trustee meetings, which are open

to the public. They meet at the Blendon Senior Center every other week at 6:30 p.m.

—Kathie Butler, Secretary

Annual Community Block Watch Training to Include Fire Safety January 12, 6:30 p.m.

Three-pronged approach to training offered to all residents through HRAA Block Watch Program—Fire Safety, Crime and Safety During a Crime, and Code Enforcement.

Tuesday, January 12, 6:30 p.m., come to the Blendon Township Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road, for FREE training in fire safety conducted by Westerville Fire Department Battalion Chief John Bokros. Crime education and safety will be taught by Sergeant Branch Wayt of Blendon Township's Police Department with a theme of "What to do when" Finally, to help keep us informed of and re-educated on existing and potential new codes, Bryan Rhoads, Blendon Township's Director of Code Enforcement, will also facilitate an information session, which will allow time for questions and answers.

Area and Street Reps, this is your moment to meet one another and network. It is our moment to say thank you.

Residents and HRAA members, this is not exclusive to Street Reps; we all need such training. Many of you have the Block Watch sticker on your windows and doors, so it is obvious that you care about the community. Please join us and find out how to better care for it.

All Blendon Township residents are welcome. Bring a friend. Bring your children if you feel they would benefit from this training. Younger children are welcome if they are supervised. Refreshments will be provided. Direct questions to Pam Clegg, Huber Ridge Area Association Block Watch Coordinator, blockwatch@huberridge.org, 614-891-9176.

—Pam Clegg, Block Watch Coordinator

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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

6084 **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

5588 **Buenos Aires Bl.**
Chris Feeney
679-7186

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 BlockWatch,
contact Pam Clegg,
blockwatch@huber-
ridge.org; 891-9176.

Huber Ridge Stats

Once again, Coldwell Banker King Thompson Realtor Nancy King has provided the following statistics for Huber Ridge from July 1 through November 30, 2009: There are currently 23 homes for sale listed with an agency. This does not include any homes that are for sale by owners. Currently there are 6 homes in contract awaiting financing and 2 homes under contract awaiting a closing date. There were 3 homes sold/closed in July, 4 in August, 8 in September, 10 in October, and 5 in November for a total of 30 homes sold since July 1. The First-Time Home Buyer Tax Credit made a difference in home sales! The lowest priced home (3 bed/1 bath ranch) sold at \$68,400; the highest priced home (4 bed/2½ bath 2 story) sold at \$155,000. This information was obtained from the Columbus Board of Realtors MLS.

—Nancy King, Realtor

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To warranty all repairs 12 months/12,000 miles
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(Note the change in the website.)

Christopher Beddoes, 5688 Montevideo Rd.
Dean Bailey, 3789 Balboa Pl.
Crystal Wood and Arthur VanTassel, 3645 Manila Dr.
Lyndsay Miller, 3676 Managua Dr.
Matthew and Ashley Matchack, 6008 N. Paris Blvd.
Alexander Kovach, 3757 Mexico Ave.
Blake Woodruff, 6067 Bolamo Ct.

November Sales

Jason Parsons and Jill Cordiano, 3720 Mexico Ave.
Scott Day and Rhonda Climer, 5590 Santiago Dr.
Universal Mortgage Group, 3594 W. Carthage Ct.
Sonia and Aaron Williams, 5917 Bolamo Ct.
Michael Brewster, 3566 W. Carthage Ct.
Ruth Guerrero, 3419 Dahlgreen Dr.
James Schnaudt, 3696 Lima Dr.
Pilar Soto, 5418 Lisbon Pl.

—Carolyn Cordray, Activities Coordinator

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Ridge Home Sales Still Strong

Home sales for September, October, and November this year compared to last year during this same period seem to have more than doubled. It could be the result of many different factors; but except for a few homes, the prices are up as well. The Huber Ridge Area Association would like to officially welcome these new residents who bought homes in the Ridge this fall.

September Sales

Wayne Gillman, 6294 Carthage Dr.
Norman and Shauna Flores, 3407 Dahlgreen Dr.
Danielle Keel and David Deangelis, 6045 N. Paris Blvd.
George H. Michael Richards, 3381 N. Hunt Club Rd.
Lauren Mathis, 6106 Bolamo Ct.
Raymond and Marie Aronhalt, 3477 Vienna Ct.
Catherine Miller, 3605 Madrid Dr.

October Sales

Sonya Underwood, 3430 Paris Blvd.
Karla Corbett, 3728 E. Paris Blvd.
Angela Brown, 3592 Rangoon Dr.

Household Member of the Quarter

Every household we have introduced to you has held its unique characteristics! This quarter's household is certainly no different. Jonathan Howard and Megan Henry have lived at 5598 Montevideo for about 4 years. They are our first honored household in Glengary Woods. They share their home with Sassy and Mira, their two dogs, and Buddie and Kitten, their two cats. Sassy is a small Rottweiler with a loving personality while Mira is a German Shepherd/Collie mix, who is an escape artist who easily leads Sassy on adventures to the creek where they come back happy (and wet). Buddie is an all white cat, who is not quite as social or "spoiled" as Kitten, a grey "baby." There I go again, talking about the animals first! Sorry.

When I first contacted Jonathan and Megan, the phone connections seemed a bit "faded." They were in Las Vegas! But that was a short trip for them. More about that later.

During what was to be our first meeting, Megan was not able to join Jonathan and me, so I asked him to tell me about

her. Hold your breath! He said, "She is really cute, nice, funny, and a hard worker." Wow!

Jonathan and Megan met while attending Ohio Dominican University; he was in International Business Administration while she majored in Public Relations. During the summers of his college years, he and his dad bought houses; he refurbished them; then they sold them—allowing him to devote his time and energy to school. He and his dad still own several houses, another in Huber, so he still uses those "construction" skills! He revealed that at some point he would like to attend law school.

Megan is a Client Services Representative at Regus Management Group, a global workplace solutions firm, and has worked part time for a catering company for the past 6 years; and when she has "nothing else to do," she follows her love of animals by volunteering at Canine Companions for Independence.

They "winter vacation" in Tahoe and also love to travel in the Western U.S. Jonathan's father's career as a pilot in the Air Force took the family to numerous countries, so he grew up traveling! Megan said that hasn't been a difficult adjustment for her to make! During Megan's junior year in college, she had a 3-month tour in Rome with 10 other students and a professor and his family. Jonathan said they were then just beginning to care about each other, and he was afraid that her tour would be the end of their relationship. She was surprised when she saw him with her folks at the airport upon her return! That night he took her to see the home he had just bought—in Glengary Woods! Once there, he asked if she would consider a future there with him. That was even more of a surprise!

Among Jonathan's fascinating stories was the one in Israel when he was baptized in the River Jordan! His hobbies are wrapped around his love of sports. He referees for several local soccer teams and enjoys hunting, water sports, snow skiing, and professional paint ball! Megan relates one of her favorite stories to be when she was 13 years old and hiked with her family for 2 weeks over 18 miles in the Cascades before spending a relaxing week at O'Dell Lake in Oregon. Her dream is to continue to travel with hopes of someday being able to experience living and working in a foreign country for a couple of years. Their future certainly will include world travel. Maybe they will keep in touch with us as they create their life together.

Sometime this spring you may hear that Jonathan is making rain barrels for us!

Come out to the Huber Ridge Area Association meeting on January 7 and meet this fascinating couple! You'll enjoy them; I certainly did.

—Joya Neff, Membership Coordinator

Look**ING** to buy or sell a home in 2010?

First Time Home Buyers \$8000 tax credit has been extended to April 30, 2010.

A new **Tax Credit of \$6500 for current home owners of 5 years** or more was initiated and will expire on April 30, 2010. Now may be the time to up-size or down-size.

Don't wait until Spring to sell your home.

Don't wait until Spring to buy a home.

The time is NOW!

I look forward to assisting you in the near future.

Contact me!



Nancy King
Coldwell Banker King Thompson
cell - 614-619-7896
nancy.king@kingthompson.com

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Faith Covenant Church

For this edition of *The Herald*, I would like to tell you about Faith Covenant Church (FCC) located at 3607 Dempsey Road. My previous articles thus far have been about businesses in Blendon Township (Roush Honda Used Cars, Sunbury Plaza Dental, and "Love Your Pet" Grooming Shop). FCC has been a wonderful supporter of Huber Ridge. They have been advertising in our quarterly publication, having a representative at our civic association meetings, helping out at our events, and hosting events for our community.

I met with Tim Heintzelman, who serves as the pastor at FCC and has been there for about 11½ years. He feels very humbled to be able to serve at FCC and says there is great joy and peace when you know you are doing God's will. Tim believes that he is where he is supposed to be.

The fact that FCC has been reaching out in our community is no accident. Since moving here in March 2000, FCC has been actively looking for ways to help our community because they believe that God has brought them



Pastor Tim Heintzelman, Faith Covenant Church

to the Huber Ridge location for a reason—to be a part of the community in a positive way, a Christ-honoring way. FCC wants people to know that they are available to help. With about 175 people in attendance on Sundays, FCC realizes that they cannot do everything; but their attitude is that they can do something.

FCC considers Huber Ridge to be their community, so they want to come alongside people in the neighborhood in concrete ways. Members from FCC have volunteered as chaperones in Huber Ridge during Halloween Trick-or-Treat night to promote safety while our children are out. FCC members have also provided mittens and hats for the Huber Ridge Elementary School. During the summer, FCC has hosted Lawn Chair Cinema nights offering the community a family fun night out with free popcorn, games, and a movie.

FCC is not trying to convert people but to be a responsive church that seeks the welfare of Huber Ridge. They feel that if Huber Ridge prospers, then FCC prospers. FCC would like people to think of them as a spiritual anchor in the community.

Tim spoke of the strengths of FCC. First of all, they are a group of people who seek to have a relationship with Jesus



Be our Guest!

Classes all ages - 9:30 am

Worship - 11:00 am

Adventure Night

Ages 4 years - 5th grade, 6 pm

February 5
March 5
April 9
May 7

Flash Point

Junior High Youth Group

Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm

The Journey

Senior High Youth Group

Sundays @ 6:30 pm

Ridge-A-Palooza!

Watch the neighborhood for more information on Huber Ridge's neighborhood block party!

www.ridge-a-palooza.com

Faith Covenant Church
 3607 Dempsey Road
 Westerville OH 43081
 (p) 614-865-0791
 (e) ask@faithcov.net
<http://www.faithcov.net>

and to live out that relationship to others. The people at FCC are “feet-on-the-ground people” with gracious spirits. Some come from broken backgrounds and have found healing, hope, and a sense of home. In all their brokenness, there is love and joy to share with others.

Some areas that FCC focuses on doing well are ministry to children and youth, strong worship, outreach to the community, and strong teaching. FCC functions in very creative ways to develop their own crafts and music while working with young people. Youth Pastor Kevin Diamond and his wife are very passionate about serving young people. Worship at FCC includes a blended style of both traditional and contemporary music. Outreach to the community involves partnering with an organization called “W.A.R.M.” (Westerville Area Resource Ministry) to help care for the needs of the poor. FCC also participates in mission work. FCC is also a strong teaching church that gives a lot of attention to a teaching ministry for adults with Sunday school and Bible studies.

FCC provides Sunday classes for all ages at 9:30 a.m. Their worship time is a 11:00 a.m. You can find out more information about FCC on the Internet at www.faithcov.net.

—Doug Dapo, Neighbor



Pastor Kevin Diamond, Faith Covenant Church



Eating: Good for Your Body, Good for Your School!

We may not get out as much in the winter to donate our time to worthy causes, but your eating habits can make a difference to help your neighborhood school.

You can find Box Tops for Education coupons on hundreds of your favorite products. Turn in your Box Tops coupons to Huber Ridge Elementary. Each Box Top coupon is worth 10 cents for your school. Read more about the program at BoxTops4Education.com.

When I think of winter, I think of soup! Clip the UPC code only from your Campbell soup labels (do not send the entire label). Huber Ridge will earn points to purchase supplies.

You can also save your Coke Reward Codes found on caps and cartons. Go to MyCokeRewards.com and enter your Reward Codes. Click on "spend points." Select "Donate to School," enter zip code 43081, select Huber Ridge. Let's keep our bodies and our schools healthy this winter.

—Kathie Butler, Secretary

Thank You for Serving Our Country

May God bless you. Email us the name, military branch, location (unless confidential), and other relevant information about Huber Ridge personnel who have served or are serving our United States of America. We will post the information on our website (huberridge.org) and in *The Herald*.

Honoring:

- ♣ Gerald E. Shaner, over 33 years of service in the Army in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.
- ♣ Specialist Mark Smock, service with the 342nd Military Police (left for Iraq in December, 2008).
- ♣ Sgt. John K. Harris, service with the 37 IBCT Army National Guard in Kuwait from January 5, 2008 to December 7, 2008.
- ♣ Lt. John Shinaberry, service with the Air Force (currently completing pilot training after graduating from the United States Air Force Academy).

Your HRAA is proud to support our troops and veterans. We thank you!

—Jim Welch, President

2009 HRAA Halloween Event a Spooktacular Time!

It was another great time at the annual HRAA Halloween event held each year in Ridgewood Park. As with each year, this event is cost neutral in that it pays for itself; and, therefore, no HRAA membership dues are used to fund this party. That is quite an accomplishment considering this event drew a little over 340 attendees this year!

Party-goers were treated to many fun activities as well as a light dinner and, of course, some sweet treats. The Haunted Woods was a big attraction as well as the hay ride; but due to the enormous generosity of our sponsors, the raffle took on a greater prominence this year as well. Be sure to check out huberridge.org for pictures of the event and most especially the costumes worn to the event.

A new aspect of the event this year was the collection of children's winter mittens, hats, and scarves taken in lieu of the admittance fee. All of these items were donated to the Huber Ridge Elementary School to be used for those children who don't have these items. In all, the following items were collected and donated to the school: 12 hat/glove sets, 23 hats, 48 pairs of gloves, 3 scarves, and 2 headband/earmuffs.

Of course, an event of this magnitude cannot come together without the help of a fabulous group of volunteers and sponsors. The HRAA would like to thank everyone involved with the party, and we surely hope to see you next year!

Our volunteers: Marje Obrist, Kathie Butler, Anna Grant, Deb Candow, Bradley Gillenwater, Terry Connor, the Robinson family, Pam Clegg, Elisabeth Clegg, Hannah Clegg, Rob Cordray, Tracy Shearer, Tami Ore, Alexis Dougherty, Joy Neff, Doug Dapo, Sharon Ricker, Danielle Combs, Jean Dawson, Brent and Hilary Sheffer, Eric Cordray, Ed Chilcoat, Jim Welch, and many others from Faith Covenant Church. There were other volunteers in the Haunted Woods who were not logged on in the volunteer sign-on, but thank you to all!

Our sponsors: Aladdins' World, Sunbury Plaza Dental, Faith Covenant Church, Blendon Township, Huber Ridge Elementary, Huber Ridge Elementary PTA, Blendon Square Townhouses, Huntington Bank, The Chiller, Half-Price Books, East of Chicago Pizza, NAPA Auto Parts, Roush Hardware, Stewart Flaherty, R. Eric and Carolyn Cordray, Bob Evans Restaurant, Bill and June Riggs, Rae Robinson, Sam's Club, Pam Clegg, Raisin Rack, McDonald's on Sunbury Road, Shadowbox Cabaret, City of Minerva Park, and Fiesta Jalisco. The HRAA would like to encourage residents to patronize our sponsors in thanks for their generosity.

Party-goers had a good time, and an informal poll of the kids waiting to take their whack at the piñata indicates that

the kids want the HRAA to have this event again next year.
Hope to see you then!

—Carolyn Cordray, Activities Coordinator

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4th Annual Halloween Shindig

Were You There?



Approaching the Registration Table



Riding on the Hay Wagon



Hitting the Ghostly Piñata



Entering the Costume Contest

Holiday Lights and Decorations Contest

For the second year, the HRAA sponsored the Holiday Lights and Decorations Contest in December. The Feeney family on Buenos Aires was the winner of last year's contest.

Any residence in Huber Ridge that was decorated with holiday lights and decorations was automatically entered in the contest, and no registration was required.

Criteria for judging the contest were as follows:

- ★ WOW factor—first impression
- ★ Use of color
- ★ Theme—cohesiveness of design
- ★ Creativity
- ★ Message
- ★ House design (2-story, ranch, split level)

The first-place winner of this year's contest was the Moore family at 5706 Bashaw. Second-place winner was the Seufer family at 3541 Karikal; third-place winner was the Barrell family at 5625 Madrid! The prizes were given out on December 15 with Sgt. Branch Wayt escorting Santa's elf in the delivery process.

Additional information about the contest is available at huberridge.org.

—Sharon Ricker

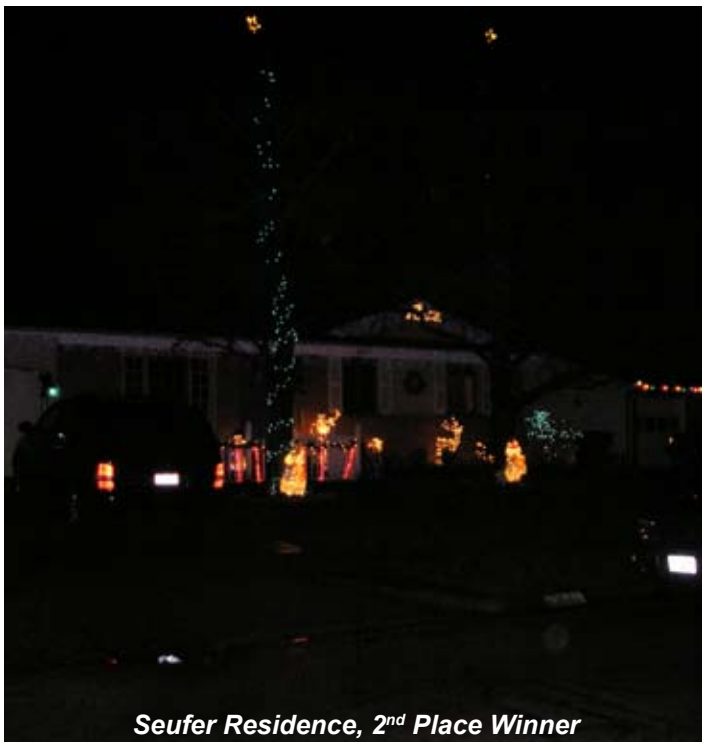
Holiday Lights and Decorations Contest Coordinator



Moore Residence, 1st Place Winner



Barrell Residence, 3rd Place Winner



Seufer Residence, 2nd Place Winner



*Sgt. Branch Wayt and Sharon Ricker
Presenting the 1st Place Prize
to the Moore Family on Bashaw
in the HRAA Holiday Lights and Decorations Contest*



Sharon Ricker and Sgt. Branch Way
Presenting the 2nd Place Prize
to the Seufer Family on Karikal
in the HRAA Holiday Lights and Decorations Contest



Sgt. Branch Way
Presenting the 3rd Place Prize
to the Barrell Family on Madrid
in the HRAA Holiday Lights and Decorations Contest

Watch Out!

Ohio American Water is getting ready to jab us another way! During the last rate increase negotiations, James Welch—with the support of all our letters, testimony, and other actions—got OAWC to agree to charging no more for our summer usage than we use during **these next three months!** But they are not telling us about that this year. Why? **Because they are trying to get out of it!** Speak out. This saves us in summer by using the winter CCF amount..

Our legislators have just gone to bat for us by submitting HB 344 and writing letters of their own to the PUCO (check out those last emails I sent!). **But only a very few of us in Huber Ridge are writing letters! We can't let them think we no longer care!**

We have to keep up the fight!

Don't think someone else is going to do all the work this time. And don't believe anyone who tells you we can't make a difference! We've already proven them wrong!

You must write!

Longhand, any kind of writing paper, don't worry about your English or grammar—just tell your story about how these outlandish rates have affected you, how the smelly water is hard to swallow, all of it. **Come to the Senior Center on Thursday, January 7, at 3:30 p.m. to write your letter.** Stationery, labels, and postage will be provided.

I know you are super busy, but I also know you care about this.

Let's show it!

—Joy Neff, Membership Coordinator



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2010 Ballot for HRAA Executive Committee

Nominating Committee members Almina Wiebell, Sharon Ricker, and Pam Clegg submitted the following as candidates for the 2010 HRAA Executive Committee at the December 3 HRAA meeting:

President.....James Welch
Vice President.....Carolyn Cordray, Sharon Ricker
Secretary.....Kathie Butler
Treasurer.....Eric Cordray
Newsletter Editor.....Marje Obrist

These are unpaid positions as are all HRAA positions. Upon election, officers are expected to meet twice a month, have email, and be able to respond quickly to email at a minimum. Each position has specific duties listed in our bylaws, but duties have varied since the creation of the bylaws. Bylaw revision will be in process for 2010.

Officers will be chosen by vote at the January 7, 2010, HRAA meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m. Members in good standing may vote if present at the meeting.

—Pam Clegg, Nominating Committee Member
—Sharon Ricker, Nominating Committee Member
—Almina Wiebell, Nominating Committee Member

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Bet You Thought Your Test-taking Days Were Over!

If you are a new resident:

You've just arrived in our community and have been welcomed with a packet of "stuff" including ½ off of a year's membership in our Association, but you haven't joined because:

- Q1.** You didn't read the "stuff" in the packet, well, maybe the map.
A. You probably should read the "stuff"—wonder what else you are missing?
- Q2.** You are just too busy to attend meetings.
A. True. Meetings are usually no fun, but we're different!
- Q3.** You forgot to mail the check on the counter.
A. Please pick it up and mail it! You're missing a lot.
- Q4.** You simply can't afford one more "bill."
A. Oh, you didn't realize the 12 months will cost you 63 cents a month, so you'll join today!

No. 1 didn't quite make it, 2 may be on the way, 3 is getting real close, and 4 gets an A+!

You have lived in Huber a while:

You know there is an Association that does good things like Huber Ridge Blizzards, the Halloween party, Ridge-a-Palooza, and more, but:

- Q1.** You just aren't interested in joining "groups."
A. We agree many people are not joiners because it takes energy to work in groups. BUT you don't have to work in our Association; just enjoy the benefits!
- Q2.** You have too much to do to attend meetings.
A. We understand that. We have 143 member households and about 25 attend our meetings—some regulars, some not. You don't have to attend; but if you have something to say, that's where you'll have a voice.
- Q3.** You don't feel you have anything to contribute.
A. The Association needs all kinds of input—thinkers, idea people, doers, crafters, writers. Believe me, we can benefit from your contributions. Try us!
- Q4.** You just never thought about joining.
A. Think about it! You're missing a lot!

No. 1 might come to see what it is like, 2 thought it was a BIG meeting, getting close, 3 didn't know if anyone cared about an "ordinary" member, and 4 no one ever asked; this one gets an A+!

—Joya Neff, Membership Coordinator



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Fall Plantings for Spring Blooms

Residents in the Ridge should expect to see a bounty of spring daffodils in the flower beds at the entrances to the neighborhood at 161 and Westerville Road as well as at the Ridgewood Park entrance come March or April.

Stewart Flaherty, avid gardener and Blendon Township Trustee, has once again made a significant donation for the sole purpose of beautification of our neighborhood. Although he is not a resident in the Ridge, Mr. Flaherty has been a big supporter of efforts to enhance the neighborhood. In the past, his donations have included daffodil bulbs, crocus bulbs, and hostas—which were planted in the Park flower beds; he has also volunteered during the annual park cleanup and given Huber Ridge Bloms prizes. This year, Mr. Flaherty has donated 100 daffodil bulbs to the HRAA.

Planting took place early in November. Rob Cordray, Sharon Ricker, Carolyn Cordray, and Jerry and Liz Ward planted the bulbs in the beds previously mentioned. It took less than an hour to plant all of the bulbs with so much help.

The HRAA would like to thank Stewart Flaherty for the daffodil bulbs and the volunteers who planted them.

—Carolyn Cordray, Activities Coordinator

Blendon Township Trustee Meeting Schedule

Blendon Township Trustees meet every other Wednesday at the Blendon Township Senior Center to listen to residents during the open forum portion of the meetings and to make decisions about matters that pertain to all of us who live in the Township.

The upcoming meeting dates are as follows:

January 6
January 20
February 3
February 17
March 3
March 17
March 31
April 14
April 28
May 12
May 26

Meetings normally begin at 6:30 p.m.; if you plan to attend, however, be sure to confirm the starting time with Blendon Township Administrative Assistant Linda Harter at 882-1270 or LHarter@blendontwp.org or check for a time change notice on the bulletin boards at the north (main) entrance to the Senior Center and at the Township offices.

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor

Hit Report for huberridge.org

The Huber Ridge Area Association's website continues to be an active, up-to-date source of information about our community. Here are the figures for July through December 17, 2009:

July.....	1,794
August.....	2,641
September.....	3,261
October.....	3,855
November	2,580
December 1 through 17	669

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor

Home Safe Home for the Holidays!

We are all busy with the preparations for the holidays ahead. The beautiful decorations and the fantastic food are such an integral part of this season. It is important to be aware that while these things add to our holiday celebrations, they also harbor some hidden hazards for the pets in our households. A quick overview of potential problems may help prevent an unpleasant and frightening episode that could warrant a trip to your veterinarian.

Let's begin with those decorations. Probably the first that may come to your mind is the notorious poinsettias that you place around your home. Many people believe that poinsettias are highly toxic, but the good news is that these plants are only mildly problematic. They may cause some mouth and stomach irritation if ingested and sometimes some nausea and vomiting, but they are not the deadly poison that they are rumored to be. So we can relax about the poinsettias, but here are some other decorations that we need to be more cautious of:

- Mistletoe—if your pet eats mistletoe, the most likely result will be gastrointestinal upsets like vomiting and diarrhea. However, mistletoe has the potential to cause serious heart and vascular problems.
- Holly—the beautiful holly leaves and berries cause lethargy, vomiting, and diarrhea if eaten.
- Christmas tree water—if you have a live tree, the water in the base can contain fertilizers, bacteria, and algae. All of these can cause vomiting and diarrhea if ingested.
- Electrical cords—many pets each year are electrocuted by chewing on exposed wires. Make sure your electrical cords are covered up or hidden and never let your pet chew on cords.
- Tinsel and ribbons—these are real hazards for kitties. When swallowed, tinsel, ribbons, yarn, and thread can cause intestinal obstruction.
- Batteries—these contain corrosive materials that can severely burn and ulcerate the tongue and GI tract.
- Fragile glass ornaments—if your pet chews and swallows these, the shards can become embedded throughout the stomach and intestinal tract.
- Liquid potpourris—pets can come into contact with these by drinking them or by rubbing against the containers and then grooming the oils off the hair coat. Some types of potpourris can cause severe irritation to the eyes, skin, and mouth.

Now let's consider the foods that are so much a part of our celebrations. A few popular items that can cause major problems for your pets include:

- Alcoholic beverages including beer and wine—never, but never allow anyone to give these to a pet and avoid their accidental consumption. Severe gastrointestinal, kidney, and neurological damage can result.
- Chocolate—most people are aware of this. The darker and more pure the chocolate, the more dangerous it is to your pets. Baker's chocolate is especially toxic. Chocolate contains theobromine, a chemical that is poisonous to pets.
- Onions and onion powder—these can cause hemolytic anemia in dogs and cats.
- Coffee including grounds, beans, and especially those chocolate-covered espresso beans—caffeine, which is related to theobromine, is highly toxic to pets.
- Grapes and raisins—a few won't hurt, but a bunch can cause kidney failure.
- Fatty foods including turkey and gravy—dogs in particular are sensitive to fatty foods and can develop pancreatitis.
- Yeast doughs—these can expand dangerously in the gut of an animal.

Others to be aware of are garlic, avocados, and candy sweetened with xylitol.

Once the holidays have passed, we still have quite a bit of winter left before those warm days of spring. Other winter hazards to be cautious of include:

- Sidewalk de-icer—these can really irritate paw pads, mouths, and stomachs. Signs of accidental ingestion include drooling, vomiting, and depression.
- Antifreeze—another one most folks know about. Ethylene

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- Rat and mouse baits—these contain chemicals that prevent blood from clotting and are highly toxic. If you must use these, place them way out of reach.

Now even when we try hard to prevent them, accidents do happen. Always call for veterinary assistance if you suspect accidental ingestion of a toxin. The best defense is a good offense, so always be prepared and have phone numbers handy. Then should your pet have a problem, you will know what to do and who to call. Know your veterinarian's number, MedVet's number (614-846-5800), and the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center's number (1-888-4ani-help) and keep them handy. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center is available 24/7, 365 days of the year. They also have a website at <http://www.apcc.aspc.org>.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours (including the furry, feathered, and scaled family members!) a very safe and happy holiday season!

—Wendy McCullen-Vermillion, DVM



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Snow Emergency Procedures

Before we know it, the snow will be flying; and the Road Department will be working long hours to make sure you have the best roads to drive on in the county. Please remember that during a **SNOW EMERGENCY**, all vehicles must be removed from Township roadways **IMMEDIATELY**; this will ensure that your road will be taken care of properly. Our trucks are very large with large snowplows on them, and **we are not responsible for damage to parked vehicles caused during snowstorms.** So please help our road warriors out this snow season by not parking on the roadways during snowstorms. If you have an extra vehicle, park it in your driveway until the snow is over and the streets are clear. We hope all of our residents will make a difference this year in helping us maintain the service you are accustomed to receiving during the winter months.

—John Giamarco

Blendon Township Road and Service Department Director

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 spring issue of *The Herald*, please contact Marje Obrist at 891-6944 or at editor@huberridge.org.



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If You Are Not a Member of the Association, This Is for You!

I have been nice to you, trying to explain the benefits of being a member:

- ☞ getting into our major activities with your whole family FREE
- ☞ being on top of what is going on in Your Own Back Yard
- ☞ sharing with your neighbors the FEEL of the community
- ☞ explaining that all of that and more is well worth \$15 a year (except for you on fixed and/or low income)—I do understand that
- ☞ and more, but

you just ignore my pleas! I want to know why! Some say you don't read this—**prove them wrong!**

Call me!! 891-0204 or email me!! joya1962@ameritech.net
Help support the work of YOUR Association.

See, I'm still being nice. Wait until my tough-RN side comes out!

—Joya Neff, Membership Coordinator

HUBER RIDGE AREA ASSOCIATION 2010 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!**



- January 6 Blendon Trustees 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.
- January 12 HRAA Community Block Watch Training at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
- January 20 Blendon Trustees Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
- January 21 HRAA Executive Committee Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
- January 25 Blendon Land Use Public Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
- February 3 Blendon Trustees Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
- February 4 HRAA Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
- February 17 Blendon Trustees Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
- February 18 HRAA Executive Committee Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
- February 27 HRAA Silver Celebration at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 5:00 p.m.
- March 3 Blendon Trustees Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
- March 4 HRAA Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
- March 17 Blendon Trustees Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
- March 18 HRAA Executive Committee Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
- March 31 Blendon Trustees Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
- April 1 HRAA Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.