



The Herald

Quarterly publication of the Huber Ridge Area Association, Inc.

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"Should I Call the Police?"

BY CHIEF JOHN C. BELFORD, BLENDON TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

I usually tell people that if you are wondering whether or not to call the police, the answer is almost always, "YES". As a police officer, I would rather get 100 calls that turn out to be nothing, than have one person not call when they should have. Recently there have been several high-profile incidents of people calling police about very minor incidents or calls that were perceived as being based on race, religion or ethnicity. This excerpt from the Department of Homeland Security's "See Something, Say something" webpage might help;

The "If You See Something, Say Something®" campaign respects citizens' privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties by emphasizing behavior, rather than appearance, in identifying suspicious activity. Factors such as race, ethnicity, and/or religious affiliation are not suspicious. The public should only report suspicious behavior and situations.

<https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something/what-suspicious-activity>

Another way to look at it is that the police might be able to assist the person. If a car has circled the block several times the driver might be lost. We respond and help people with directions all the time. If

someone is sitting in a car for what seems to be a long time they might have had a breakdown. This is another problem that police assist people with every day. A person sitting on the ground or in a vehicle not moving might be having a medical issue.

Blendon Township Police Officers do not respond to reports of suspicious activity with lights & sirens and in a confrontational and accusatory manner. We respond to see if we can be of assistance. Most of the time it turns out to be normal activity with a reasonable explanation. Sometimes people need and want our assistance and sometimes they don't want to talk to us at all. Many times we make a new friend. Sometimes people think we are harassing them and we assure them that they are not required to talk to us and are free to go about their business if there is no reasonable suspicion of criminal activity. But every now and then, the call to police prevents a crime or solves a crime.

Lastly, if you are going to call us about suspicious activity; Don't Delay, Call RIGHT AWAY. Report suspicious activity to Blendon Township Police by calling our radio dispatcher at **614.889.9494**. Report Emergencies in-progress by calling 9-1-1.

Coming Events

March

HRAA Membership Drive
runs March - May

April

1 HRAA General
Membership Meeting,
7:00pm

May

4 Spring Community
Garage Sale
18 HRAA Annual Plant
Swap
27 Memorial Day -
Rumpke Service Delay

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

SAVE THE DATES

Summer Concerts in the Park

Get ready for some good times and great music. Make plans to head on down to Ridgewood Park for these popular summer events on these Saturdays at 6:00pm. Watch for more details from Blendon Township in future issues of The Herald.

June 8

July 13

August 24

Community Garage Sales

Start going through your stuff. The Community Garage Sales have been scheduled.

These sales are publicized in the local newspapers as well as online and with directional signs in the neighborhood.

Don't miss out on these excellent opportunities to declutter and make some cash. Watch for more details and how to register your sale - for free!

**Spring:
May 4**

**Autumn:
September 14**

Annual Plant Swap

As you start to get your gardens ready for spring, don't forget about the Plant Swap down at the park. All residents are invited to bring garden plants that they no longer want to the swap. Some examples of what has been brought before: hosta, day lilies, assorted herbs, and assorted ground cover. Sometimes, we have hens and chicks, tomato seedlings, strawberries, and even trees and shrubs.

The best part of our plant swap is that you don't have to bring anything to take something home! So make plans to be at the park to swap your plants!

Saturday, May 18

World's Greatest Comics

5992 Westerville Rd. * (614) 891-3000
Glengary Shopping Center next to Subway
New Comics * Action Figures * Graphic Novels
Save up to 50% on Back Issues EVERY DAY
www.wgcomics.com * Follow us on Facebook
WE BUY VINTAGE COMIC & TOY COLLECTIONS

2019 HRAA Officers Elected

At the January 7 General Membership Meeting, the HRAA held its election of officers. Your 2019 Huber Ridge Area Association leaders are:

Carolyn Cordray
PRESIDENT

Mark Humker
VICE PRESIDENT

Victoria Griffin
SECRETARY

Julie Schantz
TREASURER

your story is unique.
let us help you tell it.

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Your Winter Fire, Carbon Monoxide Safety Checklist

BY CHIEF BRIAN MILLER, WESTERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

According to the National Fire Protection Association, nearly half of all home heating fires occur between 5-9 p.m. during the months of December, January and February. The Westerville Division of Fire (WFD) encourages residents to follow these steps to help keep families warm and safe this winter:

Keep Heating Equipment Clean and Clear

According to the NFPA, personal heating devices are the second most common causes of home fires during the winter. Failure to clean solid-fueled heating devices, like chimneys, is the leading cause of these fires. Failure to keep flammable items (like paper, furniture, etc.) far away from heat sources was the top contributing factor to home heating fire deaths. The NFPA recommends keeping flammable items at least 3 ft. away from sources of heat (including candles and space heaters) and to keep fireplace ashes outside in a tightly covered metal container at least 10 ft. away from the house at all time.

Be Aware and Prepared for Carbon Monoxide Risks Around Your Home

Winters in Ohio can be tough and many residents are prepared with portable generators. While these tools will come in handy during a power outage, they can pose serious health risks if used improperly. Exhaust from generators contains odorless carbon monoxide, called “the silent killer”. That is why firefighters recommend keeping the devices away from windows and as far away from the home as possible. Home heating systems are the top contributor to carbon monoxide-related deaths. WFD firefighters say it is imperative for all homes to be equipped with multiple carbon monoxide alarms to alert families in the event of an emergency.

Keep Holiday Trees Well Watered and Ditch Them When Dry

The NFPA says that holiday tree fires, while unlikely to occur, are more likely to be deadly than other home fires. When decorating, fire prevention experts recommend replacing any lights with broken bulbs or exposed wires and to remember to unplug the tree before leaving the house and going to bed. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), a dry holiday tree can ignite and burn faster than a newspaper. While it can be a bummer to take a dry tree to the curb after the holidays, it’s the safest thing to do. Holiday trees are considered yard waste and can be included with normal collection. Be sure to remove all decorations, cut the tree into 4 ft. lengths and tie up in bundles.

The Westerville Division of Fire continues to offer free Smoke Detector Installation. You Call We’ll Install free smoke detectors to keep you and your family safe.

From the Members of The Westerville Division of Fire we wish you and your family happy holidays and a safe and wonderful new year.

Find more important winter fire safety tips on the City of Westerville website at www.westerville.org/fire. ■

We Have a Garden Show

BY PAMELA CLEGG, BLOOMS COORDINATOR

Every Summer, Huber Ridge and Sunbury Woods come together to present a garden show and contest to encourage, reward and promote community beautification. And this year it is scheduled for June 30 from 1 to 5pm.

All residents of these two Blendon Township neighborhoods are invited to participate; it’s completely free. And the best part: the winners earn cash and gift prizes. And all participants are awarded gifts as well

Not quite ready to enter your landscape? That’s ok, the show happens every year. And you can view the gardens on the tour for free.

Find more information on Facebook (search for **Blendon Huber Ridge Blooms**) or visit www.huberridge.org. You can also contact Pam Clegg at blooms@huberridge.org with questions.

Look for registration information in early Spring. ■



Save the Date

Sunday, June 30

1 - 5 pm

Blendon Huber Ridge
Blooms Free Garden Tour

Advertise in The Herald

Reach over 1620 households in the area with an ad in The Herald.

Contact Carolyn Cordray at president@huberridge.org to reserve your ad by March 15 for the Spring Issue.

Rates per issue

Business Card 3.5"w x 2"h	\$25
Quarter Page 3.5"w x 4.75"h	\$65
Half Page 7.5"w x 4.75"h	\$125
Full Page 7.5"w x 10"h	\$225

Terms: First ad payment due with reservation.

Need an Ad?

We offer free design service for our advertisers. Let us know when you sign up.



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

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

Electrician

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

Notary

- Ron Pesika pesika@outlook.com

How to participate

The Herald is offering a low (or no) cost option for residents to promote their services to the neighborhood. Listings are only \$10 each per issue. If you are a current member of the Huber Ridge Area Association, you can list your service for free!

Contact Bernadine Pesika at bpesika@gmail.com by March 15 for more details or to get signed up.

Terms: these listings are for individuals offering services to their neighbors; companies and direct sales persons are asked to purchase a regular advertisement. All persons must be at least 18 years old to participate; parents will be asked to provide their own contact information for their minor children. The Herald will not publish any rates for services. Listing fee will be due upon agreement.

Are You a Member?

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

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

Join the Huber Ridge Area Association Inc.

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

First & Last Name(s) of Adults _____

Address _____ Phone Number _____

Emails Address(es) _____

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

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



Winter Gardening

BY ANGELA HUTSON, HUBER RIDGE RESIDENT



Now is prime time to get ready for Spring. During the winter months you can go ahead and start your garden grooming using the following tips.

Outdoors

- January is a good time to check trees and shrubs for rodent feeding.
- Use branches from Christmas trees to mulch perennials.
- Avoid walking on your lawn during thaws to avoid damage.
- You can plant shade loving plants during this time.
- Continue to provide food and water for wildlife as the sources are limited during the winter months.

- During March you can purchase trees and shrubs for planting outside later in the month.
- Rake debris from the lawn when the soil is fairly dry.

Indoors

- Move house plants away from frosty window seals.
- Group house plants to increase humidity.
- Allow water to reach room temperature before watering.
- Try growing parsley and herbs in containers in sunny window sills.
- Look through seed and nursery catalogs for gardening ideas.

- Consider planting fruits as well as fragrant varieties this coming season.
- In February replant house plants and frost heaved plants.
- Start plants from garden seeds.
- Draw out your garden space on paper and choose quality seeds.

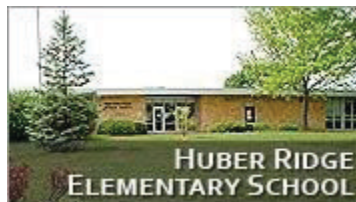
Prefer to let somebody else do the heavy lifting but still want to enjoy garden beauty? Visit the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens and you will be in awe. Here you will find over four hundred plant species from all climate zones. They even offer educational classes and ideas for gardeners of all ages and skill sets.

<https://www.fpconservatory.org/> ■

HUBER RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Principal Notes

BY TYSON HILKERT, PRINCIPAL



During the Month of December Huber Ridge has maintained an enrollment of just under 560 students. Of the 560 student around 225 of those student utilize transportation provided by Westerville City Schools. The rest of our students come to school in some other form of transportation such as daycare van, car rider, and walker.

In the winter months the amount of students who walk to school provides a unique challenge to our school. Our head custodian, Kyle Brady, has hundreds of feet of sidewalk that he works tirelessly to keep clear of snow and treat appropriately with salt and de-icer. For our 200 plus students who walk to and from school each and every day they appreciate his efforts and your efforts in the community as well.

For those of you who are able to remove the snow from your sidewalks in a timely manner after each snow please know we at Huber Ridge appreciate your efforts. This simple, yet labor intensive task, helps keep our students safe, out of the street, and makes their trek to and from school each day a bit easier during the cold winter months. ■

PTA Update

BY KRISTY SHERWOOD, PTA PRESIDENT

Last fall Huber Ridge Elementary held a walk a thon to raise funds for our playground. In addition to those funds we were also awarded a grant from Aqua Ohio. The money has been used to buy stencils to paint a US map, an obstacle course, multiplication table and hop scotch grid to name a few. Be on the lookout this spring as we start these playground updates.

Another bit of excitement was our fall Scholastic Book Fair, chaired by Becky Wallace. This year we collected money for a program called All For Books. Students were given a bag to collect change to bring back to school. Over \$344 was raised. Huber Ridge Elementary was then able to use that money to purchase 61 books and donate \$100 to the Westerville Little Library. In turn Scholastic also donated \$344 worth of books to one of their charities. Our book fair raised 2574 in scholastic dollars that are put back into Huber's media center.

We would also like to thank everyone who worked, baked or donated money to our Election Day Bake Sale. It was a huge success and it was because of our great Huber Ridge Neighborhood. ■

RECENT HUBER RIDGE HAPPENINGS

Blustery Halloween Party Fun For All

BY CAROLYN CORDRAY, HRAA PRESIDENT

This year's Blendon Township / Huber Ridge Area Association Halloween party was a real blow out! In spite of the very blustery weather we still had 420 people show up for a spooky fun time.

Party goers were treated to all of the usual fun activities: costume contest, hay ride, bon fire with s'mores, raffle prizes, Binky and Bozo's Funhouse and trunk or treat and lots of food! New this year was the "Little Kids Woods", an area specifically set up for the youngest party goers with Halloween displays and games. The online pre-registration was also successfully utilized again this year with most attendees taking advantage of it to expedite their entrance into the party.

A few changes were implemented this year that helped address a few logistical problems from the year before. Specifically the hayride was moved back to circle the baseball fields and some line roping for the hayride kept things orderly.

We were pleased to have celebrity judges for our costume contest this year. Former Huber Ridge Kindergarden teacher, Mary Jane McDonough and NBC Channel 4 (and Blendon Township resident) Bob Nunnally had a great time stepping into this role for us. So many residents were thrilled to have the celebrity judges in attendance and greeted them warmly.

It takes many to put together an event such as the Blendon Township / Huber

Ridge Area Association Halloween Party and our community really stepped forward to volunteer for the many positions and opportunities to sponsor this event. This year's sponsors were: Crosswoods Marcus Theaters (sponsored the S'mores station), Stewart Flaherty, Walmart, Smashburger, Old Bag of Nails, Glengary Subway, Jersey Mike's, Hot Head Burritos, Condado Taco, City Barbecue, Chick-Fil-A, World's Greatest Comics, Delaney's Diner, Bellaciino's, Domino's and last but not least, Kroger. We received donations from Kroger at Graceland, Polaris, Maxtown Road and Sunbury Road. The Kroger at Sunbury Road came through for us again this year in a big way donating 700 hot dogs, 700 buns and 700 bottles of water.

A big THANK YOU goes out to our volunteers this year: Eric Cordray, Marc Humker, Julie Schantz, Bernadine Besika, Lori Mann, Jubal Wagner, Charli Lauer, Theresa Harrington, Lucinda Shurelds, Mary Kay Hale, Trish Mayhorn, Tim Foust, Chief Brian Miller, Jim Welch, Jan Heichel, Elsie Hunt, Byron Mann, John Giamarco, Jacob Newman, Kira Patton, America Schaeffer, Debby Shaw, Brent and Hilary Sheffer, Dayna Laflin, and Nikki Thomas. There were others who pitched in at the party but we did not have their names to include in this article. In total there were 66 volunteers. ■

Holiday Cheer Helped Two Families

BY BERNADINE PESIKA, EDITOR

Each year, the Westerville Area Resource Ministry selects a family from their adoptee requests who is a Huber Ridge resident and their "wish lists" are given to the HRAA. The names of the family we bless are not known to anyone other than WARM staff.

This season, our neighborhood contributed \$930 and we were able to help not one, but two families here in Huber Ridge. We were able to give each family a grocery card for \$65 each, in addition to buying gifts from their wish lists. Both families had some extras tucked in their gifting bags as a result of yet another private donor.

Thank you neighbors for all of your contributions and all of the volunteers who helped shop and wrap the gifts. ■

pamperedchef
INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT

Becky Lang

614-354-4199

balang@hotmail.com

Find our Host specials at:

www.pamperedchef.biz/beckylang

Discover the Chef in you!

- Cooking Shows
- Catalog/Virtual Shows
- Holiday Shows
- Bridal/Special Occasion Shows
- Fundraisers

I ♥
Avon

Avon by Pamela H
Women Helping Women

Pamela Herb
Avon Representative

Facebook: Avon by Pamela H
Website: YourAvon.com/Pherb

Email: plhmah@sbcglobal.net

(614)531-2643 - cell

RECENT HUBER RIDGE HAPPENINGS

Holiday Lights and Decorations

BY SHARON RICKER, HOLIDAY LIGHTS COORDINATOR

The Huber Ridge Area Association awarded prizes in their annual Holiday Lights and Decorations contest on December 19. First place was awarded to the Kemmer family at 3366 Arnett Ct. Second place winner was the DeCarlo-

Berry family at 6028 Balboa Dr. The third place winner was the Breckelmeyer family at 5992 Paris Blvd N. Sgt. Erick Moynihan and Officer Blair Nance of the Blendon Township Police Dept presented the awards. There were

many colorful displays throughout the neighborhood and the elves had a hard time choosing. We thank all the neighbors for their brightly lighted displays. ■



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place

Winter Wildlife

By APRIL ZOBEL, ASSISTANT EDITOR



Wildlife can use all the help we can give to survive the winter months. While they have natural instincts and learned strategies, the interference of humans in our demands on the natural environment (clearing forest areas for roads, parking lots, and structures) makes it more difficult for them to find food and shelter. Luckily you can help by following some, or all, of these easy tips.

Leave the Leaves

Never got around to raking that last batch of fall leaves? Good! They are perfect natural nourishment for the soil and provide food and cover to a variety of wildlife along the way. Leafy remnants are even used by birds in the spring when they build their nests.

Provide Water

Providing an unfrozen source of water to wildlife saves them from having to leave their normal territory and search for it in potentially dangerous areas. Keep the water in your birdbath from freezing by using a birdbath heater. These can be found at most hardware stores or online. Positioning the birdbath near a bench or tree will allow squirrels and other animals to access the water, as well. Don't forget to clean it weekly and refill daily. Another option is to put a tennis ball, ping pong ball, or other small floating object in your birdbath. The wind will blow the

object around and keep the surface of the water from freezing over completely.

Go Wild

In your garden that is! Leave some undisturbed areas around your yard with piles of leaves or brush so that animals and insects can use them for nesting material.

Feed 'Em

Food is scarce in the colder months and even those animals that stash food may have a hard time accessing it if the ground is frozen. Putting out a consistent food source will help our wild neighbors not just survive, but thrive. Birds love a variety of seed and suet. Squirrels will be thrilled with nuts such as hazelnuts, walnuts, almonds, and even chopped apples, beans, carrots, or spinach.

Look Around

Take a look around your yard and think about the animals that usually visit and come up with your own ideas on how to make it wildlife friendly. The Ohio Wildlife Center (<https://www.ohiowildlifecenter.org/>) is a great resource for more information and they also offer different family friendly programs throughout the year where you can learn more about native Ohio animals. ■



Aldi Got a Major Upgrade

BY BERNADINE PESIKA, EDITOR

Aldi has long been my favorite store and like many of you, I have been eagerly anticipating the new and improved location. And it did not disappoint. If you haven't ventured over to the new Aldi store yet, I recommend checking it out.

The new parking lot wraps around the corner entrance of the store and you can access the carts on either side of the entrance. (remember to bring a quarter to use a cart – you'll get it back, don't worry.) Large windows flank the spacious entrance. Veer right to enter the store and you are right in the middle of plenty of produce – fruits, veggies, and a large organic section. From there, you weave through the aisles to find all the standards – bread, cereal, condiments, deli, snacks, canned goods, etc. In the middle,

you'll find the household, pet care and baby items as well as the Aldi specials and seasonal items. These change frequently – you can check out what is on special through the Aldi app available in your app store.

Two things to remember when you go:

- Take a quarter for the cart (all of which have seats for two little ones)
- You'll need your own bags – either bring yours from home, or you can purchase some reusable or paper bags in the check out.

And the best thing about Aldi; the quality you get is just as good (if not better) than name brand alternatives and costs less. Happy shopping! ■

photos by Ron Pesika on opening day.



Trash Issues?

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

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

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

Huber Ridge Area Association, Inc.

www.huberridge.org

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Historian: vacant position
Kiosk Coordinator: Eric Cordray

Are you on Facebook?

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

Huber Ridge Area Association
(Moderated Closed Group)

Huber Ridge Area Association News
(Community Page)

Important Numbers

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

Blendon Township Office:
(614) 882-1270

Local Experience

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

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

Every seller I work with gets the following services:

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

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



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KING THOMPSON

