



Volunteer for Ridgewood Park Cleanup Day

Ridgewood Park Cleanup Day, in conjunction with The Great American Cleanup and Keep Franklin County Beautiful, will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2006. We will start working at 9 a.m. A picnic lunch will be provided by HRAA. Work will continue into the afternoon.

Projects planned are

- 🌳 paint the shelter
- 🌳 spruce up the playground area (weed, mulch, sand and/or paint toys)
- 🌳 restore the volleyball court
- 🌳 repair the electric service in the shelter
- 🌳 mulch the path in the woods
- 🌳 pick up litter
- 🌳 eliminate poison ivy around the perimeter of the woods
- 🌳 temporarily repair the steps from Buenos Aires Boulevard to the playground

Other projects are being planned if time allows.

Dress for the weather and bring painting, gardening, and electrical supplies if you can. See the HRAA website (www.huberridge.org) for a list of supplies.

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

—Lori Mann, Ridgewood Park Cleanup Day Coordinator

**Join us
at the next HRAA meeting
on Thursday, April 13, at 6:30 p.m.
in the Senior Center
at 6330 South Hempstead Road!
Participate in a Q-and-A session
about the school and police levies!**

"As Long as I Feel Safe ..."

A neighbor's circumstances changed; and a move seemed likely so I asked about her plans. "As long as I feel safe and can be outside in my own yard without fear, I plan to stay here," she said. I understood her need and agreed that feeling safe was important to me as well.

It might be reasonable to say that we all want a sense of peace and safety, especially in our own homes and neighborhoods. But how do we get it? And just as important, how do we keep it for our Huber Ridge community?

According to the National Crime Prevention Bureau, many burglars spend no longer than 60 seconds to try breaking into a house. They report that being proactive about security—and having good neighbors who watch out for each other—can deter thieves. Further deterrents to crime, according to the Bureau, have to do with keeping the neighborhood in "good shape." "Dark [places], litter, and run-down areas attract crime."

Your Huber Ridge Area Association has a Block Watch Committee that is seeking to enlist more residents called Street Representatives, who will help our neighborhood be the community that it ought to be. Street Reps are committed to watching out for each other and reporting suspicious activity or crime either to the Police Dispatcher at 899-9494 or by calling 911 in an emergency. They are the communication link between the residents on their street and the Association. At times, they will distribute Association publications (such as this newsletter) to neighbors on their street. They will check our website (www.huberridge.org) for police reports and other police and safety information.

We are asking for at least one person from each street per area to be listed as the Street Representative who will

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1

help us meet these goals. When considered by area, there are 73 streets that need representation. This includes the apartments off Harbin Drive and our merchant area, Westerville Road. So far, we have 24 households listed as Street Representatives.

As you can see, we need others who will fill the role of Street Representative. If you are willing to meet this role, then please contact me at 891-9176 or via e-mail at www.blockwatch@huberridge.org.

Some residents have said they care about the neighborhood, they watch and report when necessary, but their circumstances do not allow them to distribute publications. Thank you. Keep doing it. Many of you have been proactive in deterring crime by lighting up your homes, cleaning up yards and streets, and reporting when necessary. Thank you, too, on behalf of the community.

Together we can effect change. Together we can make time to make the difference.

—Pam Clegg, Block Watch Coordinator



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
B	Batavia Rd.	6101	Deborah Candow	728-6817
	Paris Bl., N.	6084	Jo Ellen Lugin	882-0030
C	Dakar Rd., E.	5903	George King	891-3617
	Rangoon Dr.	3510	Lori Mann	882-3795
D	Cairo Rd.	5911	Julie Hedrick	890-4045
	Karikal Dr.	3582	Janet Brown	882-8684
	Karikal Dr.	3581	Merry Neff	804-7426
	Makassar Dr.	3614	Pam Clegg	891-9176
	Manila Dr.	3480	Jim and Jacquelyn Shumaker	895-8184
E	Buenos Aires North of Paris	5788	Lynn Hays	882-4751
	Varadero Dr.	5865	Tony Miller	296-0407
F	Acapulco Pl.	5455	Lou Dunbar	882-0376
	Acapulco Pl.	5433	Brad and Paula Hart	899-6728
	Madrid Dr.	5625	Ralph and Judy Barrell	882-5298
	Oslo Dr.	5561	Sharon Ricker*	891-1881
	Stockholm Rd.	3539	Ken and Ann Laub	882-2753
G	Bashaw Dr.	5643	Barb Kraynak	891-5296
	Bogota Dr.	3706	Nicholas Halliwell**	946-7615
	Managua Dr.	3668	Andrea Wei	890-8187
	Montevideo Dr.	5618	Matt Sherman	882-0368
	Natalie Ct.	5598	Shawna Gfroerer	595-4156

* Area F Representative

**Area G Representative



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Invest in Your Community!

Your Huber Ridge Area Association (HRAA) is a community association organized by your neighbors for our community. In brief, your HRAA is currently working on

-  reducing crime via Block Watch
-  neighborhood beautification, e.g., Ridgewood Park Cleanup Day on April 29
-  promoting community unity, e.g., Block Watch and various yearly functions such as the Halloween Haunted Park Costume Party, National Neighborhood Night Out, neighborhood street functions, the Welcome Committee for new neighbors, and *The Herald* (our quarterly newsletter).

Everyone has a common interest here: our home—the biggest single investment we’ll make. A lot of residents invest money in a 401K and/or an IRA or some sort of retirement plan, but our homes are retirement funds also. Whether we plan to live here for five years or retire here, we all make an

investment and hope the value goes up. If we invest a little in our community and make this a desirable place to live and a neighborhood we are proud to call home, we also increase the value of our investment.

Your HRAA is asking you to invest in your community.

Whether it is volunteering at one of our many functions, simply cleaning and taking care of your home, or being a good neighbor and reporting anything suspicious, you can help as little or as much as you would like. The \$15 yearly fees are collected to help cover the cost of the functions that will help make this neighborhood a better community. Your HRAA officials all volunteer their time to make this community and this association the best they can be.

—James Welch, President

Our Newsletter Has a Name!

The Huber Ridge Area Association newsletter is now called *The Herald*—a name submitted on their membership application by Philip and Susan Pepin of 3485 Dempsey Road. The Pepins bought their home in 1991 and enjoy the neighborhood. Philip says that they have nice neighbors and are happy “to keep an eye out”—something our Block Watch program encourages. The Pepins joined HRAA in order to share information about the community.

Philip is an industrial and commercial plumber and is also a glider pilot holding a membership in the Central Ohio Soaring Associates. He has a personal best record of gliding for 6 hours and 10 minutes in what he says is “the sport of kings and the king of sports.” Susan is a receptionist at Norse Dairy Systems, which manufactures machines that make various ice cream products. The Pepins have four cats.

The Pepins will receive a free 2007 membership in HRAA for submitting the winning newsletter name. (Sorry, Philip, no balloons nor a big check!) The Executive Committee thanks all those who submitted possible names for the newsletter.

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor

Many, Many Thanks to Our Advertisers!

We are proud to have *five* advertisers in the second issue of the Huber Ridge Area Association newsletter, *The Herald*. Please support your neighborhood businesses as we work together to make our community an even better place to live and work.

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor

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What Does the Blendon Township Service Department Do for Us?

At the January 5 HRAA meeting, Service Director John N. Giamarco told us about the many duties executed by him and his two crew members.

Blendon Central Cemetery

The Service Department devotes about 80 percent of its time to the Blendon Central Cemetery. Duties include digging graves, seeding and repairs, and general clean-up.

Street Signs, Road Repairs, and Snow Removal

Street signs, which cost \$25 to \$50 each, are replaced as needed by the Service Department; new street signs containing road names also include the words *Blendon Township*.

Road repairs (blacktop, slurry seal, and crack seal) are

contracted out; the Service Department takes care of pot holes in the Township. It also salts and removes snow from all Township owned roads. Another service that is contracted out is street sweeping, which is done three times a year for a total cost of \$10,000. John encouraged residents to clean leaves out of street gutters and to avoid raking leaves to the curbs as there is no leaf pickup.

Storm Sewers

The Township cleans and repairs storm sewers and endeavors to keep Spring Run clean. The Ohio American Water Company is responsible for sanitary sewers.

Building and Vehicle Maintenance

In the Township building complex (where the old fire house will become the police station and where the Senior Center is getting an addition), the Service Department is responsible for building maintenance (including lighting, restrooms, and minor electrical work). The Service Department also performs oil changes and minor repairs as needed to the 15 police vehicles, 8 road vehicles, and 2 Senior Center vehicles. The Service Department maintains a book of all tools and equipment on which its members have had one-day training.

Mosquito Control

Our neighborhood is sprayed every other week between dusk and dawn for health reasons. John goes to school twice a year to stay up to date on this health hazard.

General Assistance

The Service Department also routinely aids the Police Department with anything from digging a safe from a robbery out of Alum Creek to digging under a house crawl space to retrieve a dead body. Assistance with dead animals is also provided.

Future plans for the Service Department include tearing down the Ridgewood Park restroom and creating a concrete slab to hold portable toilets. Ground water problems and vandalism are the reasons for removing the restroom.

We appreciate the information Service Director John N. Giamarco shared with us as well as his offer to respond to residents' requests. The Service Department may be reached Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 882-2673.

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor

Yard Tips

The average yard needs an inch of water per week during the growing season. Blade height of a lawn mower should be set at least 2 1/2 inches to allow for stronger and deeper root growth and to allow fewer weeds to grow.



—James Welch, President

We Are Keeping Score!

Here Is What We Have Done

The Huber Ridge Area Association is off to a good start. We have created a website (www.huberridge.org), which has become increasingly popular: 743 hits in October; 1,155 hits in November; 820 hits in December; 1,338 hits in January; and 1,028 hits in February. This website is updated and expanded frequently and is a great resource for information about everything from the Huber Ridge Elementary School PTA to the Blendon Township Police reports for our area.

On December 17, we sponsored a clothing drive in Ridgewood Park from noon to 3 p.m. and collected two truckloads of clothing, which we delivered to AWARE (All Westerville Area Residents Enriched) for the benefit of *local* people.

We published our first newsletter in December and mailed it to every home in the Huber Ridge Area (approximately 1,860 homes) and began our membership drive to collect annual dues of \$15 per household.

We invited John N. Giamarco, Director of the Blendon Township Road and Service Department, to speak at our January 5 meeting (see article entitled "What Does the Blendon Township Service Department Do for Us?" on page 4).

Under the guidance of Block Watch Coordinator Pam Clegg, we have revitalized the Block Watch program with 24 households agreeing to become Block Watch representatives. Check the list of streets on page 2; if your street is not listed, it means that there is no Block Watch representative for your immediate neighborhood at this time. Please call Pam Clegg at 891-9176 if you are willing to keep an eye on your street, to distribute newsletters and flyers to your neighbors, and to encourage membership in HRAA.

Under the guidance of Carolyn Cordray, we have organized a Welcome Committee which will deliver a welcome bag with information about our community to new homeowners in the Huber Ridge Area.

Here Is What We Are Planning

Our next major project will be Ridgewood Park Cleanup Day on Saturday, April 29. In conjunction with the Boy Scouts, Little League officials, and the Blendon Township Service Department, volunteers from our community will spruce up our park. We'll begin at 9 a.m. with donuts and beverages, take a break for a cookout-style lunch at noon, and work until the jobs are done (see article entitled "Volunteer for Ridgewood Park Cleanup Day" on page 1).

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HRAA member Lori Mann is overseeing this project and would be pleased to hear from you if you can volunteer (for any amount of time) and/or donate food or supplies.

We are exploring options for an early summer community garage sale.

We also plan to encourage National Neighborhood Night Out activities again on August 2. Neighbors are invited to turn on their porch lights and to join their neighbors to visit, to discuss neighborhood concerns, and to share refreshments or a potluck supper if desired.

We want to host a Halloween Haunted Park Costume Party in October; to that end, we will be cleaning out and organizing our storage shed in Ridgewood Park as part of our Ridgewood Park Cleanup Day activities.

We'll also be offering—for those senior citizens who are unable to do yardwork—assistance in doing it in the fall.

We are still seeking memberships in HRAA and residents who are willing to volunteer to make the Huber Ridge Area an even better place to live.

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor

Editorial Guidelines for the Publication of *The Herald*

Purpose

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

Advertising Rates

Advertising rates are as follows:

\$25 per issue for a business-card size ad

\$65 per issue for a quarter-page ad

\$125 per issue for a half-page ad

\$250 per issue for a full-page ad

Welcome Committee Kick-Off

A brand new initiative arising from the newly re-formed HRAA (Huber Ridge Area Association) is the Welcome Committee. Led by Carolyn and Eric Cordray, Caracas Drive residents, this group will be putting together packages to welcome new residents to the neighborhood on a monthly basis. These packages will be hand delivered by a member of the Welcome Committee and the Block Watch representative for the new resident's street.

Thus far, the HRAA Executive Committee has approved a design for the package that includes an array of useful items to help neighbors new to the area become familiar with opportunities and services available. Some of these items include information from HRAA about the neighborhood and opportunities to become involved, offerings from local Huber Ridge Area merchants and a few other surprises. Because the Welcome Committee is just starting up, new owners will be targeted for this initiative. The HRAA anticipates welcoming new tenants in this same way in the future.

The group is always open to new members and currently lists Mary Farley of Buenos Aires Boulevard, Deb and Don Sweet of Madrid Drive, and Merry Neff of Karikal as Welcome Committee associates. If interested in helping with this wonderful opportunity to meet new residents and build community spirit, please contact Carolyn or Eric Cordray either by e-mail at welcome@huberridge.org or by phone at 882-1310.

—Carolyn Cordray, Welcome Committee Coordinator

Spring Seed and Slip Swap

With spring just starting to stir growth in our yards and flowerbeds, many of us will get the itch to go out and start sprucing things up. Gardening is one of the most popular leisure activities of adults in the spring and summer months. Not only does it beautify your living space and neighborhood, but it's also great exercise!

In the course of cleaning up our yards, we find there may be times when perfectly good plants go to waste in an effort to thin down maturing flowerbeds. With this in mind, the HRAA (Huber Ridge Area Association) would like to find out if residents of our neighborhood would be interested in participating in a Spring Seed and Slip Swap.

JOB LISTING

Wanted: a data-entry typist. Accuracy is a must. Deadline oriented with flexible part-time hours. Prefer someone who lives in Huber Ridge area and with long-term employment availability. Must have car and be willing to work downtown Columbus weekly and occasional trips to neighboring towns. Phone 891-7373 or e-mail: info@compuname.com.

The idea is to collect and bring any excess plant material (volunteer plants, slips, seeds, etc.) to a central neighborhood location at an agreed upon day and time for the purpose of sharing with other residents and possibly finding a new addition for your own garden menagerie. At this time, the HRAA just needs feedback from residents to determine if there is interest in participating in this activity. If there is sufficient interest, the event will be planned. If you would be interested in taking part in a neighborhood event such as this, please send an e-mail to Carolyn Cordray at welcome@huberridge.org or phone her at 882-1310. Indicating interest in this event at this time does not commit you to participate in any way so please let us know!

—Carolyn Cordray, Neighbor

Neighbor to Neighbor: Don't Vote if ...

Dear Neighbor:

The upcoming May primary has issues that hit home with all of us in the Huber Ridge area. We have an opportunity to be heard—but not if we don't vote.

Many feel strongly about the school issue one way or another. But are we properly informed? Have we done our homework by checking out the facts via websites, making phone calls, attending meetings, and reading the paper—just to name a few. Have we communicated our concerns (even complaints) to the ones who can make changes? Maybe you go to the polls (as I did years ago) with the mentality that says, "Vote no on anything that will increase your taxes." Our Huber Ridge Elementary School has approximately 600 children enrolled—from our neighborhood.

We have a police levy on the ballot as well. Our Blendon Township Police have a response time to a call of less than

four minutes. They have solved some recent crimes in record time. Your vote will let our Police Department know what you think. They need to hear from us—but they won't hear if you don't vote. So don't vote if you don't want to be heard. Hope to see you at the polls.

Sincerely,
Pam Clegg, Neighbor

HRAA Profile: John Converse

HRAA member John Converse designed the Huber Ridge Area Association logo which you see on the front page of this newsletter. John has lived on Acapulco Place for 14 years and is a recent graduate of Central Ohio Technical College with a degree in Digital Media Design. In his current job at Office Max, he helps customers, makes copies, and searches websites for product information for customers among other things.



John Converse

John's career aspiration is to work as a designer with the opportunity to be creative. He prepared three possible HRAA logos using Adobe Illustrator and presented them to the Huber Ridge Area Association Executive Committee. John added color to the logo for use on the Welcome Committee's bags and provided the logo in both .jpg and .tif formats.

John is the son of HRAA members Brad and Paula Hart; his family has joined HRAA to be involved in the community and to lend a helping hand during that small amount of "free time" that we all treasure. Family pets are much loved beagles, Riley and Bandit.

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor

Brent A. Sheffer
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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COLUMBUS, OHIO 43219 BSHEFFER@INSIGHT.RR.COM

Garrett Mann and Boy Scout Troop 560 Build New Bridge

Huber Ridge Area Association and Blendon Township are the benefactors of the project completed on January 14 and 15 by Garrett Mann and Boy Scout Troop 560. Garrett planned and organized the building of the new bridge in the woods at Ridgewood Park. This was to fulfill the requirements of achieving the rank of Eagle, the seventh and highest rank of advancement in Boy Scouts.

Having lived in Huber Ridge for nine years, Garrett wanted to do a service project that would benefit the community where he lived. He got the idea while helping his troop with The Great American Cleanup/Keep Franklin County Beautiful in Ridgewood Park for the past three years. The troop, in partnership with the Blendon Township Trustees, has organized the cleanups as part of their community involvement. The cleanup events had given him the idea to replace the decaying, vandalized bridge spanning the ditch in the woods. The path in the woods is a popular place for kids and adults, and making the bridge more accessible and safe was the ultimate plan. He achieved his goal, and the result is a rugged well-



Garrett Mann

Continued on page 8

Huber Ridge Area Association Membership Application

Name(s) of Adults at the Residence _____

Street Address _____

Westerville, OH 43081 _____

Telephone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

I/We would be willing to participate in the following activities:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Block Watch Area Rep | <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Fling | <input type="checkbox"/> Halloween Haunted Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Block Watch Street Rep | <input type="checkbox"/> Ridgewood Park Clean-Up | Costume Party |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Night Out | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen Assistance |

Mail your check made payable to Huber Ridge Area Association for \$15 (dues cover all adults in the household) to Brent Sheffer, HRAA Treasurer, 5663 Bashaw Drive, Westerville, OH 43081. Become a 2006 member of HRAA today! Applicants for HRAA membership agree to abide by present and future bylaws.

Continued from page 7

constructed bridge. Garrett was aided by Scoutmaster Thomas Savage and Assistant Scoutmaster Scott Kobylski, who were instrumental in the design and completion of the project. Boy Scouts and adult members of the troop were all there to support him in the construction.

Garrett has been an active member of Boy Scout Troop 560, chartered by Church of the Messiah United Methodist Church in uptown Westerville, since fifth grade. He is a senior at Westerville Central High School and is now an assistant scoutmaster with the troop. His parents, Byron and Lori Mann, have leadership roles in the troop as well.

—Lori Mann, Ridgewood Park Cleanup Day Coordinator



Ridgewood Park Bridge Builders

**Put the following HRAA meetings on your calendar and
join us on
Thursday, April 13, at 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 4, at 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 1, at 6:30 p.m.
and
Thursday, July 6, at 6:30 p.m.
at the Senior Center, 6330 South Hempstead Road!**