

## Ohio American Water Rate Increase Update

Ever since Ohio American Water (OAW) filed its latest water rate increase request in March 2006, the Huber Ridge Area Association (HRAA) has been **very effective** in pushing back. With some of the highest water rates in Ohio, our battle is not over; and your help is greatly needed!

Over the coming weeks, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) will hold a Blendon Township **Public Forum** where YOU can voice your opinion to PUCO in person!! In the coming weeks, watch for signs announcing our Public Forum date and location. The more residents who attend, the more likely PUCO and OAW are to listen and to take us seriously.

As of late September, over 340 Huber Ridge residents signed our petitions and over 70 Huber Ridge residents have mailed a personal letter to PUCO!!! This is a good start, but please keep sending PUCO your letters and attend an HRAA monthly meeting to sign the petition.

Over the last six months, the Huber Ridge Area Association (HRAA) has heard all types of feedback about OAW. However, in order to effectively fight OAW's latest 19.1 percent rate increase, please file your specific complaints and issues the following ways. By using these processes, we can better track all concerns and ensure everyone's thoughts are taken into account by PUCO before deciding on the rate increase.

If you have a Water Quality issue (brown, dirty, bad tasting/smelling, etc.):

- ✓ Back up your quality concerns by testing your water with the Ohio EPA or another water testing organization. Keep track of your results and file a Formal Complaint with PUCO against OAW.
- ✓ A Pre-Hearing will be scheduled with PUCO to prove burden of your claims, and you may be awarded a settlement if sufficient evidence of poor Water Quality is found.

If you have an OAW Customer Service issue (incorrect billing, unexplained charges on your bill, rude OAW on the phone or in person):

- ✓ Call the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (contact information follows) to report your problem. The OCC may have you call PUCO as well. All consumer issues will be collected into one big report and sent to PUCO and OAW as more proof against the rate increase.

For ALL residents opposing the water rate increase:

- ✓ Attend our Blendon Township Public Forum in the coming weeks. Our **one chance** to testify as a township to PUCO and OAW will come in early October at our Public Forum. The HRAA has requested that PUCO/OAW hold the meeting at our Blendon Township Senior Center (6330 Hempstead Road) at 6:30 p.m.—exact date to be determined. Signs will

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accompanied by adults.

—Daisy Kirkendall,  
Halloween Party  
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882-8959  
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Welcome Committee Coordinator  
**Carolyn Cordray**  
3734 Caracas Drive  
882-1310  
welcome@huberridge.org

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be posted throughout the Township as soon as we hear of our Public Forum date. The more residents that attend and state why they oppose the rate increase, the louder our message.

- ✓ Send a personal letter to PUCO stating why you oppose the latest water rate increase. This letter writing campaign has been working very well so far with approximately 70 homes writing letters of opposition—this has been the most letters PUCO has received in a long time on a water utility issue—but we can be louder. PLEASE send your letter today (directions follow)!
- ✓ Become educated (log on to PUCO's website and research our case [directions follow]).
- ✓ Get information about the rate increase to and from your neighbors (flyers, letters, petitions, signs, etc.).
- ✓ Attend the monthly Huber Ridge Area Association meetings for the latest OAW updates, volunteer opportunities, to sign the Petition, and more.

### What's going on?

- ✓ Ohio American Water (OAW) is requesting rate increases in **all** of the company's districts (over 159,000 people in 36 communities across the state):

- ◆ Ashtabula
- ◆ Franklin County (Blendon, Brown, Madison, Norwich, Perry, Prairie, and Sharon townships)
- ◆ Lawrence County
- ◆ Portage County
- ◆ Mansfield
- ◆ Marion
- ◆ Tiffin

- ✓ OAW says the across-the-board **average** rate increase is 17.01 percent—but when you actually look into the numbers, most increases are significantly higher (in Huber Ridge/Blendon Township, it's a 19.1 percent increase; other neighborhoods in Ohio are higher than 19.1 percent).
- ✓ This latest rate increase request is on the heels of a previous rate increase that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) granted in 2005; several rate increases were granted prior to 2005.
- ✓ OAW says they need to pay for upgrades when, in fact, Blendon Township has ALREADY paid for these specific upgrades.
- ✓ If this rate increase goes through, Ohio American Water will have the highest water bills of most communities in the State of Ohio. Blendon Township will be one of the highest in the Central Ohio area.

### Who is Ohio American Water (OAW)?

- ✓ Ohio American Water is the largest regulated water utility in the state providing water and/or wastewater services to over 159,000 people in 36 communities across the state.
- ✓ The company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of American Water, the largest and most geographically diverse provider of water services in North America. With headquarters in Voorhees, NJ, American Water employs approximately 7,000 people who serve more than 18 million people in 29 states, Puerto Rico, and Canada.
- ✓ American Water is an integrated part of RWE AG (Essen, Germany), a leading utility company in Germany.
- ✓ RWE plans to sell shares of American Water in an Initial Public Offering in the near future.

### What's Next?

- ✓ Each Ohio community is organizing and strategizing their plans for defeat of this rate increase.
- ✓ The Huber Ridge Area Association (HRAA) has been working diligently with several Central Ohio neighborhoods including the creation of the "Central Ohio Fight OAW Committee" that meets the last Wednesday of each month in Worthington Hills to share best practices and benchmarking opportunities.

## TYPIST wanted:

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This Committee includes association members from:

- ◆ Huber Ridge (Blendon Township)
- ◆ Sunbury Woods (Blendon Township)
- ◆ Blendon Square Apartments (Blendon Township)
- ◆ Worthington Hills area (Perry Township)
- ◆ Lake Darby Estates (Prairie Township)
- ◆ Timberbrook (Prairie Township)
- ◆ Federland (Prairie Township)
- ✓ A public information website has been established for this specific rate increase: [www.gettingsoaked.com](http://www.gettingsoaked.com).
- ✓ [www.huberridge.org](http://www.huberridge.org) always contains specific neighborhood rate increase articles and topics.

## IMPORTANT OHIO AMERICAN WATER RATE INCREASE RELATED CONTACTS

### Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO):

Mail your **letter of opposition** to:  
PUCO

Attn: Docketing Division  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Regarding: **Case #: 06-0433-WS-AIR**

(Our case # must be on your letter to be docketed in the official case record.)

To be added to PUCO's **e-mail distribution list** about this rate increase:

- ✓ Visit <http://dispuc.state.oh.us/> and enter case #: 06-0433-WS-AIR.
- ✓ Then click the "subscribe to a distribution list" link.
- ✓ Then click on the bottom link that says "case" and enter your e-mail address and the case number (06-0433-WS-AIR).

Ohio Consumers' Counsel:

1-877-Pick-OCC (1-877-742-5622)

[www.pickocc.org](http://www.pickocc.org)

Huber Ridge Area Association website (contains specific neighborhood OAW updates, OAW neighborhood contacts, and meeting times/locations):

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

Central Ohio Fight Ohio American Water website (contains Central Ohio OAW updates, OAW Central Ohio contacts, and meeting times/locations):

[www.gettingsoaked.com](http://www.gettingsoaked.com)

—Julie Hedrick, OAW Communications Coordinator

## Secret Agents in Huber Ridge?

Yes, there are "secret agents" in Huber Ridge—folks who do good things for our community without seeking credit for their work. The following folks who tend the Huber Ridge entrance signs are examples:

- ☼ Carolyn and Eric Cordray, who have planted flowers and weeded the sign at 161 and Buenos Aires and the sign on Dempsey Road by Reno Drive
- ☼ Lori Mann, who has maintained the sign area at Westerville Road and Paris Boulevard for many moons
- ☼ Tom Heichel, who has turned the eyesore sign area on Dempsey Road by Paris, North into a beautiful area by planting flowers, weeding, and even mowing on a weekly basis

Brad Hart is another example. He can be found picking up trash in Ridgewood Park very early on Sunday mornings.

Do you know of other "secret agents" in Huber Ridge? If so, please let Newsletter Editor Marje Obrist (891-6944 or [editor@huberridge.org](mailto:editor@huberridge.org)) know so that we can recognize them.

—Jim Welch, President

## Because You Asked—Zoning, Health, and Police Issues

According to the Bylaws of the Huber Ridge Area Association, one of the reasons the HRAA exists is to “promote the general welfare of the community.” Therefore, when residents contact officers of the Association about neighborhood concerns, we try to respond accordingly. By responding to resident concerns, we are keeping our objectives “to foster and advance the public interest in the Huber Ridge Area” and “to promote public improvements and safety within the community.”

### Zoning Issues

Here are answers to questions you have asked about the following **zoning** concerns:

**Boats:** May not exceed 22 feet in length; are not allowed

in the front of the home; must be on the side of or behind the home.

**Recreational Vehicles:** May not exceed 22 feet in length; (rule applies to property size of less than an acre); are not allowed in the front of the home; must be on the side of or behind the home.

**Semi-Trucks, Dump Trucks, Commercial Vehicles, Dual Axle Trailers:** Are not permitted, even overnight; except for temporary access to the neighborhood; e.g., delivery trucks.

The reason for this is they are considered to be destructive to the street and the sidewalks. When streets and sidewalks need repair, *it costs us tax dollars*. If the money isn't there, then not only is the usefulness of the roadways and sidewalks hampered, but also the appearance of the neighborhood suffers.

**Business Signs:** Signs advertising a business are not permitted, whether posted on a tree or in the ground, anywhere on the property. Real estate signs are the exception to this rule.

**Garage Sales:** Residents are permitted four (4) garage sales in a 12-month period that may not last more than four

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(4) consecutive days.

**Swimming Pools:** Currently, code covers only *in-ground* swimming pools with the regulation that they must be enclosed with a 48-inch high locked fence. Your insurance company may have regulations on above-ground pools.

**Vehicles with no license plates:** A resident is allowed *one* vehicle on the property without plates only if it is behind an opaque, 6-foot high fence or an approved detached structure. A cloth cover does not qualify as an approved detached structure.

**Vehicles parked close to property line:** The current code is that no driveway is to be closer than three (3) feet to the property line. By parking a vehicle in the grass, you are establishing a driveway. You will notice that in our neighborhood, driveways do not meet current code. The neighborhood existed prior to the code. If your driveway is not already established, then you should consider your neighbor.

**If in violation:** If found to be in violation of code, a letter is sent to the resident advising of the violation. The resident has 10 days to resolve the matter. If it is not resolved within 10 days, upon reinspection, a second letter is sent. After 10 days pass and reinspection occurs, if still in violation, then the case is turned over to the prosecuting attorney.

The codes are established to improve our neighborhoods and quality of life and to provide safety. While long-time residents may already know these answers, many new residents do not; and others may have forgotten them.

Blendon Township falls under the jurisdiction of Franklin County government for both zoning and health issues. Zoning concerns and questions may be directed to Joe Bailey, Director of Zoning for Franklin County, at 462-3094. Mr. Bailey has taken time to provide me with these answers and has checked this article for accuracy.

## Health Department Issues

**Items Addressed in General by the Health Department:** The role of the Health Department is that they address threats to public health. Solid waste (trash), unsecured structures (e.g., broken out windows), dilapidated structures (e.g., sheds), grass and weeds over 12 inches, stagnant standing water (April through October because of the health threat mosquitoes pose), rodents, animal feces, dead animals, and unhealthy living conditions are the general complaints they address.

**Items Not Addressed by the Health Department:** Not all vacant homes can be addressed by the Health Department. They must have issues like the aforementioned to qualify for Health Department attention. Also, the Health Department cannot address the aesthetic details of a property. For example, if you do not like your neighbor's large bush, it does



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not pose a health threat. If it grows into your yard, however, then you have the right to trim it because it is on your property. That is not a Health Department issue; rather it is civil.

**Grass and Weed Violations:** Health codes state that grass and weeds shall not exceed 12 inches. According to Mike Adair of the Franklin County Health Department, property owners are notified one time; and then the property is referred to Blendon Township if compliance is not met. "Each Township has the authority through Ohio Revised Code (5579.05) to mow these nuisances. This authority does not require the local health department to issue orders first, but for Blendon ... we provide that service."

**General Violation Process:** The general violation process involves a letter issued from the Health Department that states the nature of the violation and the steps necessary to correct it. Mike Adair has communicated, "The size and scope of the violation will determine the time frame given to make the corrections. A compliance date is given, and I will reinspect on or after that date. If the property owner fails to comply, a second letter will be issued and sent via certified mail. The second letter restates the order and gives a new compliance date. Failure to comply with the second orders could mean referral to the Franklin County Prosecutor or a referral to the Board for a nuisance abatement hearing."

**Reporting Procedure:** To report your concerns, contact Mike Adair at the Franklin County Board of Health by calling 462-3017. He can be reached directly between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. and between 3:30 and 5:00 p.m. Between those hours, he is inspecting complaints; but you may leave a message, and he will return your call. Your call will be handled professionally and in a timely manner.

**Addendum:** Some residents have contacted association officers with their complaints, and we have responded willingly and accordingly. We have acted as liaison on your behalf and will continue to do so if that is your preference. Mike has



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noted that oftentimes it is better to hear directly from the resident in the event he has more questions or needs your permission to enter your property.

This section has been reviewed by Mike Adair of the Franklin County Board of Health for accuracy.

### Police Department Issue

**Cars Parked Too Close to Intersections:** Cars must be parked at least 20 feet from intersections.

—Pam Clegg, Block Watch Coordinator

## Jack and Jill

Jack and Jill have lived on their street approximately five years. They enjoy sitting on their bench in front of their home and visiting with their neighbors. Sometimes they sit out front and watch their children play with friends. While they do not know all of their neighbors because their street has over 40 homes on it, they do know the ones on their end of the street—or at least who belongs and who doesn't.

This turned out to be a very good thing. One day this last July, Jill was sitting out front and noticed that something wasn't "right" at a neighbor's house. There were some people there whom she had never seen. She noticed other things, too, like the way these people parked down the street away from the home instead of in front of it. She noticed what they were wearing and other distinctive things about their appearances. She did not call the police because she knew that these neighbors do have lots of friends. But she kept all this in mind.

It proved to be fruitful when she saw the police at the home later that day. Jack and Jill saw that another neighbor was at the home while the police were there; and they surmised that, again, something wasn't "right." Soon Jack and Jill were at the home telling their story to their neighbors and then to the police. From their information and descriptions, the neighbors who had the unpleasant experience of a break-in and theft were able to direct the police to possible known suspects. Then the police were able to investigate and later solve the crime.



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This is a true story that happened in our neighborhood. While their real names are neither Jack nor Jill, they are real neighbors who care about their street, their friends, and their neighbors. Do you have a "Jack" or a "Jill" on your street? Are you willing to do what they did to care for your street and neighbors? The list on page 7 should let you know if your street has a designated street rep for Block Watch. Maybe you do not wish to appear on the list, but you are willing to do your part. If you are willing to be a part of Block Watch—either officially or unofficially—please let me know either by e-mail or a phone call. If you have more questions about it, contact me. I would love to hear from you. It's your street.

—Pam Clegg, Block Watch Coordinator

## 49 Residents Participated in Community Garage Sale

Our first reestablished HRAA community garage sale sponsored by Rodger and Barbara Crawford with **Century 21 Joe Walker & Assoc.** was a success. We had 49 registered participants, we passed out maps of the garage sale area, and we advertised to approximately 140,000 homes in the *This Week* newspaper. The ad appeared in the Westerville, Worthington, Powell, Gahanna, and Northland area *This Week* on July 13.

As I drove around the area on July 15, the day of the sale, I saw a lot of traffic. Rodger and Barbara Crawford provided 4 large garage sale signs and 13 little garage sale signs. Barbara drove around at 9:30 a.m. and tied balloons to all her signs. The day was sunny and very warm. I noticed kids selling lemonade. All in all, I believe our first community garage sale was a success. Some more work will be needed next year to get traffic back to the areas less traveled.

A huge thank you goes to Barbara and Rodger Crawford of **Century 21 Joe Walker & Assoc.** for all they did to support this event.

—Jim Welch, President



## 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	237-0322
B	Batavia Rd.	6101	Deborah Candow	728-6817
	Paris Bl., N.	6084	Joellen Lugin	882-0030
C	Canberra Ct.	3515	Edwin England	794-3049
	Dakar Rd., E.	5903	George King	
	Rangoon Dr.	3510	Lori Mann	882-3795
D	Saigon Dr.	3505	Jim and Amber Chill	882-4220
	Bangasi Rd.	5971	Paul and Robin Wagner	282-5800
	Bangasi Rd.	5943	Melanie Kopacsi	895-0127
	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. (3477-3551)	3480	Matt and Jacquelyn Shumaker	895-8184
E	Buenos Aires North of Paris	5788	Lynn Hays	599-3647
	Caracas Dr.	3688	Barbara Muldrew	818-2712
	Varadero Dr.	5865	Tony Miller	296-0407
F	Acapulco Pl.	5455	Lou Dunbar	882-0376
	Acapulco Pl.	5433	Brad and Paula Hart	899-6728
	Buenos Aires South of Paris	5643	Ron and Diana Szymkowiak	898-7754
	Copenhagen Dr.	5520	Bill and June Riggs	890-6070
	Copenhagen Dr.	5650	Ronald Brown	882-2794
	Lisbon Pl.	5418	Gary and Annette Humphries	891-7816
	Madrid Dr.	5625	Ralph and Judy Barrell	882-5298
	Oslo Dr.	5561	Sharon Ricker*	891-1881
	Panama Dr. (3515-3622)	3596	Michael Dodgens	895-0499
Stockholm Rd.	3539	Ken and Ann Laub	882-2753	
G	Bogota Dr.	3706	Nicholas Halliwell**	946-7615
	Managua Dr.	3668	Andrea Wei	890-8187
	Mexico Ave.	3661	Michelle Baum	895-9601
	Natalie Ct.	5598	Shawna Gfroerer	595-4156

\* Area F Representative

\*\*Area G Representative



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## Spring and Summer Bring New Neighbors to Huber Area

Spring and summer property sales since the last issue of *The Herald* have brought 28 new home owners into the neighborhood. The Welcome Committee is working hard now to pull together welcome bags for all new residents who have bought homes in the Huber Ridge area in the spring and summer months and should be distributing those bags in the coming weeks. On behalf of the Huber Ridge Area Association, we officially welcome you to the neighborhood!

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

**May Sales (from May 13, 2006,  
through the end of the month):**

Thomas A. and Emily R. Patterson, 3378 Hunt Club Road,  
North

David K. Wilson, 3450 Dahlgreen Drive

John Z. and Danielle D. Dean, 5601 Madrid Drive

Scott A. and Kimberly A. McPherson, 5527 Oslo Drive  
Angela C. and Jorge R. Rubio, 5675 Santiago Drive  
David W. Jones, 3594 Madrid Drive

### **June Sales:**

Aaron A. and Danielle Carder, 3590 Carthage Court  
Stanley E. and Marianne Collins, 3780 Mexico Avenue  
Mark Archer, 5767 Vienna Drive  
Ronald Reid, 5837 Buenos Aires Boulevard  
Jeffrey R. McGowan, 3434 Paris Boulevard  
Philip P. and Crystal R. Watts, 5657 Spohn Drive  
Shelley L. Jehn, 6073 Batavia Road  
Michael G. and Christine M. Fannin, 5593 Spohn Drive  
Daniel D. Bower, 5433 Lisbon Place

### **July Sales:**

Joshua A. and Christine A. Severe, 5613 Natalie Court  
Jason G. Wheeler, 3567 Stockholm Road  
Deutsche Bank National Trust Co., 3636 Bolamo Drive  
J. Christina Wuollett-Smith, 5430 Lisbon Place  
Brian M. Wiese, 6351 Montford Road, West  
Jon E. White, 3464 Saddle Lane, West  
Eric W. Hembree and Christopher M. Takacs, 5556 Madrid  
Drive

Jarod M. and Amanda Klever, 5603 Montevideo Road

### **August Sales (through August 8, 2006, only):**

Brian D. Moledor, 3371 Hunt Club Road, North  
Julio Cintron, Jr., and Regina Cintron, 3725 Lima Drive  
Randall Woodruff, 5656 Bashaw Drive  
Jo D. Conway, 5979 Bangasi Road  
Nelia Pluviose and Rony Derosiers, 6140 Cairo Road

—Carolyn Cordray, Welcome Committee Coordinator

## Ridgewood Park Paths Are More Inviting

The most recent improvement to Ridgewood Park was for the fulfillment of another Eagle Scout service project. Eagle Scout Christopher Kobylski, with the help of Boy Scouts and adults from Troop 560, installed benches and path markers in the Park on August 19.

Five benches were placed along the paths in the woods to allow a more relaxing stroll. Maps with distances between points referenced were placed at the three entrances to the Park. Posts marking the directions of the paths were placed at junctions.

Chris, a 2006 graduate of Thomas Worthington High School, is the son of Scott and Jeanine Kobylski. He has been in scouting since being a Tiger Cub in first grade and has been with Troop 560 since sixth grade. Being an avid runner and hiker, he hopes that making the path easier to navigate and

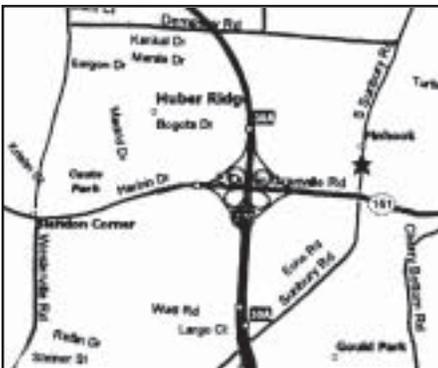
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more inviting may help promote a healthier lifestyle for our residents.

As Chris pursues a post-secondary degree at The Ohio State University, Marion Campus, we wish him luck and give him a big thank you for his contribution to our park!

—Lori Mann, Ridgewood Park Cleanup Day Coordinator

## Emerald Ash Borer

For updates and information on the emerald ash borer and quarantines, visit our website and click on the hot link.

—Jim Welch, President



*Maps Were Placed at the Three Park Entrances*

## 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



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## HRAA Celebrates First Anniversary

The first year anniversary of your HRAA is upon us. The Huber Ridge Area Association has accomplished a lot of things; many of them I mentioned in the last edition of *The Herald*. Since our last newsletter, we have had a community garage sale, promoted National Night Out, and continued the fight against Ohio American Water Company's proposed rate increase (the details of our fight are discussed by Julie Hedrick beginning on page 1). Our neighborhood Block Watch is continually growing and becoming more and more effective. We have welcomed new members and neighbors.

We are currently planning to have a Halloween party (for which we need volunteers) and to sponsor a clothing drive in November (please save your unused or unwanted good clothing)—all while uniting and improving our community. All of these activities are accomplished with your yearly \$15 membership dues and some of your very dedicated neighbors, who have worked tirelessly this last year. In order not to leave anyone out, I will not attempt to list them and their dedication.

Your association and events are run by volunteers only so that your membership fees are going back into your neighborhood to make it the neighborhood that you know it can be. Please become a member and volunteer as little or as much as you feel like. We meet the first Thursday of every month at the Senior Center, 6330 South Hempstead Road, at 6:30 p.m. Let's make our second year even better than our first.

I thank everyone involved with the past year. The success of our first year is due to you; your efforts and dedication have made our list of accomplishments numerous and successful. To everyone who volunteered or donated in any way this past year, THANK YOU!

—Jim Welch, President

## Support Your Local Advertisers

A thank you goes out to our local advertisers. Please, as you read through *The Herald*, don't skip over our advertisers as their support helps pay for the cost of publishing this quarterly newsletter and allows your HRAA membership dues to accomplish more for our neighborhood.

Many local businesses offer coupons or discounts to our community to keep our money local and to benefit our neighborhood. Keep our local businesses in mind when you need services or products. Many of the businesses donate at community functions, and all of them pay property taxes either directly or indirectly.

HRAA thanks its advertisers for their support.

—Jim Welch, President

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

Check our website, [www.huberridge.org](http://www.huberridge.org), often. Keep informed of neighborhood functions, guest speakers at meetings, community information, Ohio American Water Company proposed rate increase updates, etc.

—Jim Welch, President

## Yard Tips

To improve neighborhood appearance, protect waterways, reduce flood risk, and save taxpayers' money, don't forget to clean your street gutters when you rake your leaves this fall!

—Jim Welch, President

The next street sweeping is scheduled for early November. Blendon Township does not have a service that picks up leaves from the curb; it is up to homeowners to dispose of leaves with their regular trash on Fridays.

—John Giamarco, Blendon Township Service Director



# Happy Birthday, Blendon Township!

August 23, 1806, the first settlers of Blendon Township washed their clothes in Alum Creek by S.R. 161. They had left their home, family, and friends back in Windsor, Connecticut, because they felt “too close communion” with neighbors. They had heard by correspondence that land close to the Worthington settlement was promising.

## Who, How, and When They First Arrived

Ed Phelps, Sr. (age 46), the fifth descendant from William (an emigrant from Tewksbury, England, in 1630) and Isaac Griswold (age 26) left Connecticut, September 26, 1805, to “overtake friends” who had left the week prior. They did overtake them and later reached their destination of Granville. These two men then made a 28-mile journey by horseback to Worthington via Indian trail—which we know as S.R. 161. The men were gone for 78 days before returning to Windsor December 13, 1805. While on their trip, they blazed trees along Alum Creek on the land they had a description of—land they planned to purchase—land that early maps indicate was part of present day Huber Ridge area. (Alum Creek was named, it is believed, from a corrupted pronunciation of “elm” suggesting that elms grew along the bank or because “alum” crystallized along the creek’s edge.)

## The Pioneers

The Phelps and Griswold families sold their land in Connecticut for a good price. With loaded wagons, the party of fourteen set out from Windsor, Connecticut, Tuesday, June 24, 1806, ready to settle this new land. The party consisted of the following:

- ◆ Edward and Azubah (Moore) Phelps plus six children: Edward, Jr. (16), Abram (15), Azubah (12), Lucinda (9), Chloe (7), and William (4)
- ◆ Isaac and Ursula (Clark) Griswold plus two children: Isaac (3) and Edwin (1)
- ◆ Selina Griswold, sister of Isaac
- ◆ Ethan Palmer

## No Cell Phone, No SUV, No DVD Player, No Moving Van

Imagine no cell phone to rely on for emergencies, no 4-wheel drive to get you through the terrain, and no electronics to occupy your time. No, after these settlers said good-bye to relatives and friends on June 24, 1806, they traveled slowly with large, loaded wagons driven by oxen and smaller ones driven by horses. The wagons were loaded with belongings to help them live comfortably on the new land. Edward Phelps,

Sr., and Isaac Griswold rode saddle horses. The Phelpses’ sons drove the two large wagons led by six oxen. The women and children rode in the horse drawn wagons. Where were “Two Men and a Truck”?

## Who Felled the First Tree?

Ethan Palmer and Ed Phelps, Jr., had a contest to see who could fell the first tree. They chose beech trees of equal size and sharpened their axes. These men had skills with an ax that would amaze us. Well, Ed Phelps, Jr., won the honor and went down in history as being the first white man to fell a tree in Blendon Township. This young man was known to have a fine appearance; he was 6 feet tall and 165 pounds—no couch potato.

## Blendon Township

Blendon Township used to be Harrison Township. The Harrison Township name was adopted March 6, 1815. We were renamed Blendon Township December 8, 1824.

## Blendon Township Cemetery

Our cemetery is loaded with history. Some of the Blendon Township pioneers such as Edward Phelps, Sr.; Edward Phelps, Jr.; and Abram Phelps are buried in it. You will find their gravestones in the historic section on the corner of Hempstead and Dempsey roads. Edward Phelps, Sr., is a Revolutionary War veteran. His son, Abram, is buried next to him.

There is much more on the history of these families and our township. It is a rich history. May we be inspired to discover more of it and to live our own history well. Visit the cemetery with your children and grandchildren. Tell them about these people now that you (and I) know a little more. We did. Happy birthday, Blendon Township, and many more!

## Final Notes

You may visit our website ([www.huberridge.org](http://www.huberridge.org)) and click on “About Huber Ridge Area” for a few more details. The rest of the story can be found in the books I have listed below as reference.

Many thanks to Beth Weinhardt, the Local History Coordinator of the Westerville Public Library, who patiently helped me locate this information and reviewed it for accuracy. This information was taken from two books available as reference at the Westerville Public Library. They are

- ◆ *The History of Westerville, Ohio* by Harold Hancock, Revised 2003
- ◆ *Settlement of Blendon Township* by Homer Phelps

—Pam Clegg, Neighbor

## School Has Started ...

Please watch out for our children. Keep an eye out and report anything suspicious. Drive carefully.

—Jim Welch, President

## 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"/> OAW Rate Increase Opposition   | <input type="checkbox"/> Ridgewood Park Cleanup    | <input type="checkbox"/> Halloween Haunted Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Block Watch Area or Street Rep | <input type="checkbox"/> National Night Out        | <input type="checkbox"/> Costume Party          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Committee              | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen Assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing Drive         |

**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.**



### Election Day Is January 4!

Election Day for Huber Ridge Area Association officers is Thursday, January 4. Here is how the process works:

At the HRAA general meeting on **Thursday, November 2**, a Nominating Committee consisting of at least three members in good standing will be elected by the members present.

This Nominating Committee will present the names of candidates for the offices of President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor at the HRAA general meeting on **Thursday, December 7**—one month before the HRAA annual meeting. Nominations including self-nominations from the floor may be made at the December 7 meeting. Nominations will be published in the Winter 2007 issue of *The Herald*. Candidates must agree to serve if they are elected.

HRAA officers will be elected at the annual meeting on **Thursday, January 4**. The President-Elect will serve a two-year term (one year as President-Elect and one year as President); the President will offer guidance as Immediate Past President for the year after he or she leaves office.

Consider helping your community by serving as an HRAA officer, as a member of the Nominating Committee, as a Project Coordinator, or as a Block Watch Area or Street Representative. We need you!

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor

### Are You Gifted in Art and Design?

Sgt. Branch Wayt of the Blendon Township Police Department has a good idea: we should design and have a flag made for Blendon Township.

If you have talent, let's see it. Design a flag for Blendon Township and submit it at one of our meetings or e-mail your design to me at [president@huberridge.org](mailto:president@huberridge.org). We will review all submissions with Township officials and select one. We will have it made and dedicated to the Township with the winning designer in attendance.

—Jim Welch, President

**Join us at 6:30 p.m.  
 at the Senior Center,  
 6330 South Hempstead Road,  
 for HRAA meetings on  
 October 5  
 November 2  
 December 7  
 January 4**