

*Be Informed! Vote!*

## HRAA Hosts Blendon Township Trustee Candidates Night on October 16 at 7 p.m.

Your Huber Ridge Area Association will host a question-and-answer session at Faith Covenant Church, 3607 Dempsey Road, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 16. The **THREE** candidates who are running for the **FOUR**-year term as Blendon Township Trustee have been invited to be present to answer your questions.

Each Trustee candidate was also asked to submit written answers to two questions posed by the HRAA Executive Committee. Answers to each question were to be restricted to 500 characters (not counting spaces) and were not altered, edited, corrected, nor evaluated. The answers to these questions and personal data for the candidates follow:



**Alexander Stallings**

**What are the two biggest problems facing Blendon Township at this time?**

The foremost issue I believe is maintaining a strong and effective police force. Working with the police department to help them find more efficient ways to combat crime, and ensuring that they get the funding they need. The other issue I find is that there needs to be better communication and coordination between the trustees and other agencies/companies such as Ohio American Water, Franklin County Health Department, and the City of Westerville. Maintaining strong lines of

*Continued on page 2*



**Jerry Ward**

**What are the two biggest problems facing Blendon Township at this time?**

First is the need to address the gradual deterioration of all the subdivisions. This includes the streets, side walks, curbs, drain drops and signs. There are a few residential structures that have not been maintained due to foreclosure or lack of interest by the owner. They have a negative impact on the value of the properties and aesthetics of the community.

Second is the need to continue resisting unreasonable rate hikes by Ohio American Water and monitor their

*Continued on page 2*



**James Welch**

**What are the two biggest problems facing Blendon Township at this time?**

1) Beautification:

- a) Deterioration of our infrastructure—crumbling streets, curbs, sewer drops, etc.
- b) Neglected, abandoned, foreclosed, properties falling apart.
- c) Our public Parks and Township owned properties. A disgrace compared to the immediate surrounding communities.

2) Communication/Education:

- a) There is no real communication with the residents of Blendon

*Continued on page 2*

President  
**James Welch**  
5460 Acapulco Place  
882-8959  
president@huberridge.org

Vice President  
**Brian McMahon**  
3473 Dempsey Road  
891-5312  
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Secretary  
**Era McMahon**  
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Treasurer  
**Brent Sheffer**  
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818-9324  
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Newsletter Editor  
**Marje Obrist**  
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891-6944  
editor@huberridge.org

Block Watch Coordinator  
**Pam Clegg**  
3614 Makassar Drive  
891-9176  
blockwatch@huberridge.org

Membership Committee Coordinator  
**Eric Cordray**  
3734 Caracas Drive  
882-1310  
membership@huberridge.org

Park Cleanup Day Coordinator  
**Lori Mann**  
3510 Rangoon Drive  
882-3795  
beautification@huberridge.org

Welcome Committee Coordinator  
**Carolyn Cordray**  
3734 Caracas Drive  
882-1310  
welcome@huberridge.org

Alex Stallings *continued from page 1*  
 communication I believe would help alleviate resident concerns much more efficiently.

**What do you hope to accomplish as a Trustee?**

As trustee I would hope to set up recycling services along with trash pickup, maintain a strong police force, do a better job of maintaining roads and ensuring that the roads that get re-paved are the ones that need it the most, increase the effectiveness of the township website, help communicate with outside agencies better, do a better job maintaining the parks and green spaces, and work with the police department to keep track of any sex offenders that move into the area.

Jerry Ward *continued from page 1*  
 product quality and customer service.  
**What do you hope to accomplish as a Trustee?**

I am determined to establish a reasonable timetable by which prioritized repairs will be made to the infrastructure given the budget constraints. I have already initiated a Zoning/Building Code Enforcement Liaison officer to address the residential structure and grounds deterioration. I will initiate and develop a comprehensive plan through the application of appropriate state laws and county regulations that will give the Board of Trustees the authority to effectively correct community "eye sores." This mission will be aided greatly by my experience, education and determination to protect our community.

James Welch *continued from page 1*  
 Township. The Township has a bi-annual newsletter that contains no relevant information, i.e., information that pertains to daily living in the township, zoning and health laws, road construction, etc...

**What do you hope to accomplish as a Trustee?**

- 1) Establish a working relationship with the residents, employees, and co-workers of Blendon Township that will include trust, faith, honesty, and respect.
- 2) Establish and implement a plan dealing with the aging infrastructure, and delapidated properties.
- 3) Establish and implement a plan that cleans up and maintains the Parks and township properties.
- 4) Establish and maintain an updated website and informative newsletter.
- 5) Fully support our police dept. with personnel and tools needed to support our township.
- 6) A place where residents will be proud to call home.

Alex Stallings' **Address**  
 4051 Beauty Rose Ave.  
 Westerville, OH 43081

Jerry Ward's **Address**  
 5461 Acapulco Place  
 Westerville, Ohio 43081

James Welch's **Address**  
 5460 Acapulco Place  
 Westerville, Ohio 43081

**Age**

28 years

**Occupation**

Assistant Showroom Manager - Capital Lighting

**Education**

Graduated Westerville North High School, 2 years Ohio State University, CompTIA A+, CompTIA Network+, Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP)

**Age**

64 years

**Occupation**

Officer-Ohio Health Corporation

**Education**

Bachelor of Science Business Administration-Franklin University  
 Graduate Work-University of Dayton

**Age**

42 years

**Occupation**

Automotive Technician

**Education**

Grove City High School - Graduate Paul C. Hayes Technical School - Automotive Mechanic graduate

Stewart Flaherty, 59, of 4433 Smothers Road is a graduate of Denison University and is a financial consultant. He is running **UNOPPOSED** for the **TWO**-year term as Blendon Township Trustee. He was appointed by Judge Belskis to fill the position vacated by Trustee Kevin Bacon, who was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives. Stewart Flaherty must run for election on November 6 if he wishes to complete the remaining two years of Kevin Bacon's term; his appointment was only through December 31, 2007. The article by Stewart Flaherty beginning on page 3 details his plans and goals.

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor

## Change Is Inevitable; Progress Is Not!

Like all communities in Central Ohio, Blendon Township has its problems. The two largest facing us at this time are (1) aging neighborhoods and (2) our limited income stream as a township.

Our community has a long and rich heritage. But that long history means that our roads, houses, and parks are not new any more. Maintaining a house is a difficult task. When maintenance becomes renovation or replacement, it also gets expensive. In today's world of limited resources, people often put off the repairs and replacement as long as they possibly can. Over time that shows in the deterioration of our neighborhoods.

The maintenance of our neighborhoods is also complicated by absentee landlords who don't have the same vested interests that homeowner/residents do. Redirecting rental payments into investments in the property is too often a choice not made.

Our problems are further complicated because Blendon Township does not have its own building code. Until recently townships could only follow the State Building Code. The State of Ohio does not have the same community standards that Blendon Township has. Recently the state law changed, and Blendon is looking into getting its own building code.

Laws will help the Township clean up some of the more difficult properties, but they will not solve all the problems. The only solution to aging neighborhoods is for landowners to undertake the restoration process. Each and every citizen needs to be involved, even if it is only planting a few flowers or picking up the litter.

The Township Trustees need to pursue all the avenues at their disposal to clean up or tear down blighted properties. We also need to explore new ideas for neighborhood rejuvenation. For example: sidewalk maintenance is the responsibility of the homeowners. Perhaps the township could start a sidewalk program that would share the costs with the homeowners. By



*Stewart Flaherty*

using our bulk buying power, we should also be able to negotiate lower prices.

Driving around our community, I have observed an aging infrastructure. While our street department has done an excellent job of maintaining our streets, eventually the streets, curbs, and gutters just wear out. When replacing them today, we are faced with the increased ADA requirements. Being in compliance really drives the costs up.

Money is always an issue in today's world. We are faced with the task of allocating limited resources among unlimited choices. This applies in our own home budgets as well as in the Township budget.

We do not collect an income tax in the Township, so our sources of income are more limited than in adjoining cities. As areas of the Township are lost to annexation, our revenues are impacted. As the Statehouse looks for more money, they cut local government funds. That also takes away from our income.

We need to be careful of our existing resources. We also need to maximize all potential sources of income. That means clearly defining the possibilities and then actively pursuing them. We need to be proactive, not reactive.

As a Trustee, I want to help the community continue to be a great place to live. That means the Trustees will have to



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become more proactive, clearly defining the future standards we and the citizens want to see in our Township. Change is inevitable; progress is not. We will have to work hard to counteract the forces that will bring our community down. Aging neighborhoods, indifference of rental landlords, the intrusion of gangs, the influx of drugs, and lack of respect for our neighbors all can destroy our vision of Blendon Township.

I would like to see a series of town meetings held early next year. These meetings would allow for a dialog between the Trustees and the citizens. It would also allow for each of the different areas of our community to hear about the needs of the other areas. We are a diverse community, and that diversity needs to be accounted for in our vision of the future.

Because we have limited resources to maintain our infrastructure, we need to plan our replacement and repair budgets very carefully. I would like to develop a two-year budget that accounts for the regular maintenance items as well as the "extra" items we would like to do. Once the process is implemented, the budget becomes a review of the prior plans combined with looking forward one more year. By forecasting into the future, we can become more proactive rather than just reacting to citizens' complaints.

I would like to have a Master Plan for the cemetery implemented. The cemetery is a major source of income for Blendon. We need to make sure that we are charging appropriately for the services provided. We also need to develop a master long-term landscape plan. Planning for an expansion of the mausoleum has been a good thing. But we also need to consider the future message we want the cemetery grounds to send both by design and by upkeep. We should have a set policy regarding memorial benches and trees. We should have a clearly defined policy about decorations allowed at the graves. We should be planning for the future expansion by planting trees now rather than having open fields until a new section is opened.

I hope to capitalize on my past experience and connections to build strong ties with our surrounding communities. Joint ventures can help us stretch our resources. Cooperation between communities can sometimes help us solve our residents' problems. An example is the water supply issue on Sandymark. There are things that governments can do, and things that they can't. My past 13 years of experience has helped me recognize which is which.

These are exciting and critical times for our township. I hope that my fresh perspective can help continue the good programs that have existed in the past and to introduce new programs that will assure that our top future is the best that we can envision.

—Stewart Flaherty, Blendon Township Trustee



**Faith Covenant Church**

**October**

- 5 - Adventure Night (Youth 4yrs to 5th grade)
- 6 - Bonfire and Chili cookoff
- 16 - Blendon Township Trustee Q&A
- 19 - Ladies Night Out
- 20 - Men's Breakfast
- 23 - ICETEAM - Internet Safety Class
- 31 - Beggar's Night Rest Stop

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**November**

- 2 - Adventure Night
- 6 - Election Day welcome
- 9-11 - High School Retreat
- 17 - Men's Breakfast

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**December**

- 1 - Women Ministries Christmas Fellowship
- 2 - Advent Classes Begin
- 7 - Adventure Night
- 8 - Church Christmas Party
- 15 - Men's Breakfast
- 16 - Children's Christmas Program
- 24 - Christmas Eve Service

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**Worship Topics**    **Ruth: A Love Story**  
 Sunday School Classes    **Authentic Worship**  
 for all ages begin at 9:30    **Making Room for God**  
 Worship begins at 11 AM

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## The 2007 Block Watch Award Goes to ...

**Amy McCarthy** of Natalie Court for her contribution in solving a theft in the neighborhood. Please read "Amy's Story" in *The Herald*, page 5, for details.

The award will be presented to Amy at our next HRAA meeting, Thursday, October 4, at 6:30 p.m. by Sgt. Branch Wayt of the Blendon Township Police Department. It is awarded when a situation warrants and is not necessarily an annual presentation. After listening to her story, I believed that Amy was well deserving of the award. Sgt. Wayt agreed so he proceeded with the process of approval and obtaining it.

All residents are invited to join us at the meeting so we may applaud and encourage Amy and her family. Street reps in particular—please try to attend to encourage a fellow rep. Thanks!

—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
	Hunt Club Rd., N.	3378	Emily Patterson	899-3742
B	Batavia Rd.	6101	Debb Candow	728-6817
	Paris Bl., N.	6084	Joellen Lugin	882-0030
C	Canberra Ct.	3515	Edwin England	794-3049
	Dakar Rd., E.	5903	George King	
	Paris Blvd. (3370-3611)	3463	Wayne and Jenny Carr	899-7373
	Rangoon Dr.	3510	Lori Mann	882-3795
D	Saigon Dr.	3505	Jim and Amber Chill*	882-4220
	Bangasi Rd.	5971	Paul and Robin Wagner	392-0091
	Bangasi Rd.	5943	Melanie Kopacsi	
	Karikal Dr.	3582	Janet Brown*	882-8684
	Karikal Dr.	3581	Merry Neff	804-7426
	Makassar Dr.	3614	Pam Clegg	891-9176
	Manila Dr. (3477-3551)	3480	Matt and Jackie Shumaker	895-8184
	Buenos Aires North of Paris	5788	Lynn Hays	599-3647
E	Caracas Dr.	3688	Barbara Muldrew	818-2712
	Caracas Dr.	3734	Eric and Carolyn Cordray	882-1310
	Varadero Dr.	5865	Tony Miller	890-1402
	Acapulco Pl.	5455	Lou Dunbar	882-0376
F	Copenhagen Dr.	5520	Bill and June Riggs	890-6070
	Madrid Dr. (5519-5610)	5625	Ralph and Judy Barrell	882-5298
	Madrid Dr. (3525-3620)	3599	Kathy Ridgway	899-9690
	Oslo Dr.	5561	Sharon Ricker*	891-1881
	Panama Dr. (3515-3622 West)	3515	Betsy Briggs	203-5404
	G	Bashaw Dr.	5680	Cheri Gray
Bashaw Dr.		5663	Brent Sheffer	818-9324
Bogota Dr.		3706	Nicholas Halliwell*	946-7615
Managua Dr.		3668	Andrea Wei	890-8187
Managua Dr.		3705	Frances Corkrean	890-1825
Mexico Ave.		3661	Michelle Baum	895-9601
Natalie Ct.		5652	Amy McCarthy	899-7859
Santiago Dr.		3686	Daisy White	948-0635
Spohn Ct. and Dr.		5601	Robin Thomas	891-2722

\* Area Representative

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

### Amy's Story

My family and I have lived in our Huber Ridge home for nearly 17 years. I have always been a very trusting person and have welcomed my children's friends into our home, but last Christmas changed that.

My two sons, ages 8 and 16, called me at work one night wanting to know, "How many presents were under the tree?" ... "He got more presents than me." ... "It seems like there are less presents now." I said what might be expected of an ER nurse, "Stop counting the presents. I have lives to save!" A



few minutes later my husband called and said that he thought the kids were right.

When I got home the next morning, I unwrapped the remaining presents. After comparing the receipts, I discovered that 15 presents (about \$500 worth) were gone. I filed a police report with Blendon Township. There were no signs of forced entry, no other stolen items (so we thought), no clues—just a couple of very sad kids.

My 8-year-old son was afraid that somebody was going to break into our house at night. So, over the next few days, we had a security system installed. We also financially scrambled to replace what gifts we could for our children.

The police wanted to know if we had any suspects. At that point, everyone was a suspect. I even suspected some of my 16-year-old son's friends. Whoever it was knew what they were looking for ... teen-type presents, ones shaped and sized like video games. The gifts that were not taken were neatly rearranged back under the tree. I supposed they did this in the hope that we would not notice that nearly all of my children's gifts were taken.

Over the next two months, I questioned, who, how, and why? I was determined to figure this out. I did not realize this initially but later found that there were three gift cards stolen from *inside my desk*. Upon checking, I learned that two of the gift cards had not been used, but the third one had been used at a local store. I went to the store, sought their help, and over a period of time and much research, I ultimately helped Blendon detectives apprehend the thief.

It turned out that a "friend" robbed our home. We learned that he gained entry to our home through an unlocked door. The door was unlocked for approximately 30 minutes. I was home (asleep) at the time. This young man committed other crimes in Huber Ridge. But thanks to the persistent, hard work of the Blendon and Westerville police departments, the case was solved. The minor pled guilty to his felonious actions and is currently on probation for one year.

—Amy L. McCarthy, Neighbor

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## Summer Brought New Neighbors

You might think that with the well documented slump in home sales there would also be a slowing in our neighborhood. Actually, in comparison to the same time period last year, there have been just slightly fewer home sales in the Huber Ridge area; there were just three fewer this year.

New neighbors, welcome! If you haven't yet been visited by one of our wonderful neighborhood Welcome Committee volunteers, either we've missed you; or we're working to get to you very soon. If we missed you and we left a card, please give us a call or e-mail ([welcome@huberridge.org](mailto:welcome@huberridge.org)). We'd love to meet you and give you a little gift from the HRAA to welcome you to the area.

The following listing of Huber Ridge area new home sales was graciously provided by Compuname ([www.compuname.com](http://www.compuname.com)). First, however, our apologies to two new neighbors who were omitted from the welcome article earlier in the year. Both homes were sold at the end of February, and we'd like to acknowledge and formally welcome you to our neighborhood now!

Jennifer Tieche, 3536 Karikal Dr.

Anthony and Ibiene Osubeni, 5433 Acapulco Pl.

Please accept our apologies for this oversight!

May Sales (from May 22, 2007, through the end of the month):

Justin and Crystal Jenkins, 5591 Oslo Dr.

Mark and Angela Merrin, 5911 Cairo Rd.

Patrick Shira, 3708 Paris Blvd., E.

June Sales:

Eric R. Larrabee, 3442 Saigon Dr.

Douglas and Krista Stauffer, 3590 Karikal Dr.

Cathryn Reese, 3530 Paris Blvd.

Seth Warner, 5916 Balboa Rd.

Peter and Teresa Dezelski, 5598 Natalie Ct., S.

Justin Black, 3661 Bolamo Ct.

Brian Davis and Jaclyn DeCoursey, 3636 Bolamo Ct.

**July Sales:**

Michael and Rani Conger, 3475 Brazzaville Rd.  
 Brian and Betsy Karas, 5922 Cairo Rd.  
 Kathleen Durkin, 3789 Caracas Dr.  
 David Gustin, 5646 Santiago Dr.  
 Jason R. May, 6124 Batavia Rd.  
 Jamie and Michael Carden, 5685 Santiago Dr.  
 Marnita and Kevin Kosinski, 3360 Arnett Ct.  
 Michelle Baxter, 3721 Lima Dr.  
 Joshua and Holly Stewart, 6021 Dakar Rd., N.  
**August Sales (through August 22, 2007, only):**

Rajesh Sehgal, 5589 Madrid Dr.  
 Jason Newton, 3374 Vickers Dr.  
 Lisa Panzone, 6083 Dakar Rd., W.  
 Saul Nanato and Edith Trejo, 3654 Panama Dr.  
 Deutsch Bank National Trust Co., 6451 Montford Rd. W.  
 Fannie Mae, 3475 Saddle Ln. S.

The Welcome Committee in conjunction with the HRAA would like to recognize and thank the generosity of our local area merchants who have contributed contents to our

Welcome Bags. Please be sure to patronize our local area merchants! They are Buckeye Corner, Carsonie's, China House Restaurant, Hollywood Studio Theatre, Home Depot, Lifestyle Family Fitness, "Love Your Pet" Grooming Shop, Mary Kay (Barbara Muldrew, Consultant), Mini Storage, Monroe Brakes and Tires, Nail-A-Dumper.com, Joy Neff, Ohio State School of Cosmetology, Rub-a-Dub Pet Salon, Saturday's, Subway, Sunbury Plaza Dental, USPS, Varment Guard, Vineyard Church, and Waffle House.

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

A big thank you to your Welcome Committee volunteers for the past quarter: Amber Chill, Brent Sheffer, Era and Brian McMahon, Pam Clegg, Lori Mann, Janet Brown, Amy McCarthy, Sharon Ricker, Barbara Muldrew, Lou Dunbar, Liz West, and Sherri Sartori!

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

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## New Community/ Compliance Officer

The Blendon Township Police Department now has a designated Community/Compliance Officer. Starting August 1, 2007, part-time Officer Bryan Rhoads's duties will primarily focus on neighborhood quality-of-life issues and code compliance.

"This is a test program," said Blendon Township Police Chief John Belford. "The Trustees were looking at hiring a Code Enforcement Officer. This is something we are trying in the meantime. By having a police officer handle these complaints, we can't issue citations for code violations, but we can liaison with the appropriate agencies. We can also do some things that those agencies can't."

Chief Belford explained that police officers are already in the neighborhood and can find problems, sometimes even before anyone calls in a complaint. The officer can make contact with residents and try to get voluntary compliance. If that does not work, the officer can file a report with the appropriate agency and follow up on a regular basis. Police

officers can issue citations for noise, littering, commercial vehicle, juvenile, and animal complaints. No code enforcement officer, unless he or she is also a police officer, can do all that. Additionally, residents get another police officer on patrol who can respond to emergencies, slow down speeders, and deter crime.

"Officer Rhoads will be our point man with the Board of Health, Board of Zoning, Animal Control, Division of Wildlife, Local Waste, construction crews, local businesses, and the EPA," said Chief Belford. "He will ride with Franklin County Environmental deputies and attend zoning seminars, meetings with the Fire Department and Children's Services, whatever it takes." Some complaints may not fit into a neat category. It may not technically be a health or zoning issue. Some problems are really just disputes between neighbors. Some problems are a mixed bag of issues. Whatever the complaint, the Community/Compliance Officer should be able to either handle it or get it to someone who can. The Chief's marching orders to Officer Rhoads give a good indication of the organizational philosophy behind the new initiative. "Number One: Stay with every complaint and shepherd it through the system. We never file-it-and-forget-it. Number Two: Try to handle every complaint with a *first name and a handshake*."

The test program will run through October when the Chief will report to the Board of Trustees with results and recommendations. Any resident with a complaint can call the Police Department at 882-8500 or any other Township office, and the information will be forwarded to Officer Rhoads for action.

—Chief John Belford, Blendon Township Police

## Have You Kept Your Sidewalks Maintained?

There are sidewalks throughout the Huber Ridge area; some are maintained in a flat and safe condition while others have become hazards due to encroaching tree roots, the effect of salt deteriorating the concrete, damage due to vehicles, or just the settling effect of weather causing some sections to be higher than others. Who is to maintain your sidewalk?

Are sidewalks the responsibility of the township or the property owner? While sidewalks are used by the general public, they are normally paid for and maintained by the individual property owner. The property owner may be a homeowner, a landlord, or a business owner. Owners pay for sidewalks by property tax assessment, or the real estate developer may have provided the sidewalk if within a newer subdivision. Developers are now required to provide sidewalks within all new developments. In developments where an



addition to an existing building or structure is 50 percent or more of the original square footage, sidewalks must be added where they do not presently exist.

Who is responsible for maintaining sidewalks? **The property owner is responsible** for any needed repairs or other maintenance such as snow and ice removal. Section 729 of the *Ohio Revised Code* provides the statutory authority for a government body to require property owners to repair their sidewalks as well as to assess the cost of repairs by the government body to the property owners if they choose not to correct the problem on their own. Section 729.02 specifies the requirements of maintaining sidewalks and Section 729.03 specifies the notice requirements for forcing the property owner to make the repairs or be assessed by the government body. These laws were put in place in 1962.

Do the laws that apply to municipalities also apply to counties and townships? Yes. Sections 5543.10 through 5543.14 of the *Ohio Revised Code* authorize the county engineer and/or the board of township trustees to apply the same statutes outside of any municipal corporation and may assess none, all, or any portion of the costs against the abutting property owners. In addition, the county engineer and/or the board of township trustees may trim or remove any and all trees, shrubs, and other vegetation growing in or encroaching onto the right-of-way of the easement of a public sidewalk along or connecting the public highways in their sole discretion to facilitate the right of the public to improvement and maintenance of, and uninterrupted travel on, public sidewalks in the county or township.

What if you choose to ignore the problem? Besides the obvious potential that someone could get hurt walking on your sidewalk and sue, there will come a time when you may be forced to make the repair. Can you just remove the sidewalk and have none? No, and it will cost you more in the long term if you try that. The township and the county have the ability to require you to replace the missing sidewalk or repair the damaged sections and will correct the problem and assess the property owner if repairs are not done timely after you receive a notice of the passage of a "Resolution of Necessity" under Section 729.02 *O.R.C.* The notice is usually sent to the last known address of the owner or to the address where the property tax bill is sent.

What is the best way to resolve the problem? Walk along your sidewalk and look for broken sections that are missing, elevations in sections, or other damage that might cause a person to trip and fall on your sidewalk. If it looks like repairs are needed, contact your neighbors and see if they would be interested in jointly hiring a contractor to repair your sidewalk. You may find that you can get a better price if the contractor can combine a number of projects together on the same day

*Let us put our heads together,  
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at 402-7317 or 899-1400 or visit our website:  
[www.CrawfordsHomeTeam.com](http://www.CrawfordsHomeTeam.com).



and save him money and time as well. If your trees or plants are blocking the sidewalk, consider trimming them back so they don't obstruct your neighbors from using the sidewalk. If you think you are unable to afford the repairs, take care of them before they become major repairs. The township has the discretion to decide how much to assess you if you fail to respond to an order to repair your sidewalk. Work with the township and don't wait until the township has to do the job and then is ready to assess you their costs. Keeping the sidewalks maintained in good condition is a benefit to you, the children who walk to school, and everyone who enjoys walking through the neighborhood.

—Brent Sheffer, Treasurer

## A Tip from Sgt. Wayt ...

Protecting citizens from identity theft has been a serious problem not only for law enforcement but also for the ever increasing number of victims of fraud and theft. We recommend that you exercise caution when giving out personal information such as Social Security and credit card numbers.

—Sgt. Branch S. Wayt, Blendon Township Police

## OAWC Update

Approximately 70 residents attended Ohio American Water Company's public meeting on July 10. OAWC presented a water conservation PowerPoint presentation. This presentation, which can be viewed on our website, [www.huberridge.org](http://www.huberridge.org) updated residents on the efforts to clean up our water supply and answered many residents' questions. OAWC plans to have another community meeting in late 2007 or early 2008 so watch our website for dates and details.

In early July, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel sent out surveys to all Huber Ridge residents concerning water quality, delivery, and customer service. The OCC received a 12-percent response to the survey of approximately 1,700 surveys it sent out. The results were very mixed—ranging from problems fixed to no problems ever to still horrible. The OCC plans to send a follow-up survey out later so please watch your mailboxes. This is a true way to gauge OAWC.

Lastly, in my continuing efforts to stay informed of the OAWC's progress, my latest update from Thomas Schwing (OAWC's Franklin County Network Operations Superintendent) is as follows:

- ✓ OAWC has completed a second flushing of the water distribution system. OAWC plans a third flushing in the fall.
- ✓ Construction has started on new chemical feed rooms at the Huber Ridge Water Treatment Plant (HRWTP). The chemical feed rooms will provide the facilities and the chemicals needed to reliably produce a consistent finished water product.
- ✓ Ohio EPA has approved the temporary addition of a phosphate solution. This chemical will allow a protective coating to develop on the water distribution pipe walls to reduce chemical reaction with the water in the distribution system.

The OAWC saga will be a long, ongoing process. As I have since March of 2006, I will continue to keep the residents informed for a long time to come. I strive to follow OAWC progress—making sure they follow the stipulation agreement, keeping residents up to date with progress, and opposing the next rate hike applied for. Keep informed by reading our website and newsletters!

—James Welch, President

## Youth Group's Extreme Makeover

What does  $23 + 11 + 2$  equal? You knew the answer would not be 36 because that is too obvious. This math sentence adds up to 1; that is, ONE extreme outside makeover

for a very pleased neighbor on Karikal Drive. The "23" in the equation is the number of youth ages 6 to 15, the "11" in the equation is the number of adults, and the "2" is the amount of hours it took to make this transformation.

The youth were comprised of volunteers from the Grace Brethren Church of Columbus Middle School Ministry and neighbors on Karikal who joined in the fun. Did I mention "fun"? **How could pulling weeds, digging up stumps, repairing gutters and shutters, washing shutters and windows, trimming bushes, picking up clippings, planting flowers, edging the sidewalk, and hauling away yard waste be fun?** I do not know, but it was—even for the adults who were also from the church and the neighborhood.

One of the adult sponsors in the youth group knew this neighbor needed help, so she contacted the neighbor about the youth group's desire to be of service. The neighbor was willing to let the youth group converge onto her property on a Wednesday evening in July.

**These two hours were community at its best. Thank you** to the neighbors who helped with this project: Cathy, Grace, and Nathan Samson; Rachel Kesling; and Jack Brown for sharing his tools to help everyone accomplish the task. Another young neighbor, Natalie Lugin, of Paris Blvd., N., shared her mission experience in Guatemala with the youth group at break time. Thank you, Natalie.

Maybe your group would like to do an "extreme makeover" or some other service project for the neighborhood. You know the saying, "Many hands make work light." And it proved to be true. The neighbor was very grateful for all the work done. I know at least one adult sponsor was overwhelmed with the service of these youth and adults who never complained—just worked until the job was finished. What an inspiration for all of us!

—Pam Clegg, Block Watch Coordinator

## Beautification on a Budget

With heaps of home improvement shows currently on television demonstrating great new ideas for design and decoration, even amateur D-I-Yers like us feel encouraged to try out some home beautification projects. These projects can be exciting, rewarding, and even—dare I say—fun! They can also be *very* expensive. The cost of materials, tools, consultations, and contracted work adds up quickly. How does the beautification of a home happen on a tight budget?

Five years ago, we moved into our first home. We found it to be structurally sound and in a nice neighborhood; and the asking price was in our budget. Upon our initial walk through, we immediately saw many aesthetic changes we would want to see happen to make the house our own. Unfortunately, they couldn't all happen right away.

We decided to make a list of all the changes we wanted to see take place from fresh paint, new flooring, new kitchen and bathroom design to landscaping and outdoor improvements. The list was long. Because we knew that we would have to prioritize the items on the list, we agreed upon the best order of action, such as saving the new flooring until last. That way we didn't have to be careful of the old flooring when taking materials out, building new walls, or applying paint.

We shopped for tools at Grossman's Bargain Outlet and borrowed from friends and family when we could. We learned quickly that the right tools meant better results and happier people, but that doesn't always mean using the top-of-the-line. Some tools are ridiculously overqualified for the job.

We checked out DIY books from local libraries; asked for gift cards to home improvement stores for holiday gifts; and luckily have wonderful relatives, friends, and neighbors who were willing to help with projects we found too daunting to tackle on our own.

When removing countertops, cabinets, and other usable materials, we donated them to the Habitat for Humanity's Build It Again Center ([www.habitatcolumbus.org](http://www.habitatcolumbus.org)) on Westerville Road. The money received from the sale of these

materials is directly contributed to the building of Habitat homes locally.

Five years later, we look at before-and-after pictures, laugh about projects that went awry, and feel at home in a house that we're proud of; and we still have a little money in the bank!

—Sara Stevenson-Thiegs, Neighbor

**Halloween Haunted Park  
 Costume Party**  
 Saturday, October 27 (Rain Date: October 28)  
 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.  
 in Ridgewood Park

Trick or Treat Street!  
 Costume Contest!  
 Haunted Woods and more!

Admission is free!  
 Donations accepted!  
 Children must be accompanied by adults!  
 Volunteers/supplies needed!

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1 - 270

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## Upcoming Events in the Ridge

Your friends at the HRAA would like to inform you of some upcoming events this fall.

On Tuesday, October 16, the candidates for Blendon Township Trustee will participate in a public Q & A session. Faith Covenant Church at 3607 Dempsey Road, will host the forum. Please consider coming out to this very important event.

On October 23 at 7 p.m., the Faith Covenant Church on Dempsey Road will host an Internet safety program for parents in the area. The Westerville Police Department's Internet Safety Team will be conducting the session. For more details, please contact Pam Clegg, HRAA Block Watch Coordinator at [blockwatch@huberridge.org](mailto:blockwatch@huberridge.org).

Please come out to our annual Halloween party on Saturday, October 27, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.. We are currently looking for volunteers and supplies for this year's party. For more details on the party or to volunteer, please contact Jim Welch, HRAA President, at [president@huberridge.org](mailto:president@huberridge.org).

Go through those closets and drag out those clothes that

you don't (or can't) wear any more. The HRAA will have its annual clothing drive on Sunday, November 11, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. in Ridgewood Park. All clothing items will be donated to A.W.A.R.E. (All Westerville Area Residents Enriched). For more details, please contact Jim Welch, HRAA President, at [president@huberridge.org](mailto:president@huberridge.org).

And remember ... get out there and VOTE!!!! The election for our township officials will be on Tuesday, November 6!

Please visit our website, [www.huberridge.org](http://www.huberridge.org), or e-mail me at [vp@huberridge.org](mailto:vp@huberridge.org) if you have questions.

—Brian McMahon, Vice President

## Internet Safety Education for Youth on October 23

Faith Covenant Church and your HRAA are sponsoring an Internet safety program for youth ages 12 and older if accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, October 23, at 7 p.m.

This educational session on Internet safety will be conducted by the Westerville Police Department Internet Safety Team. They will warn youth and parents/guardians of dangers and teach them how to use the Internet safely. The program will last approximately one hour and will be held at Faith Covenant Church, 3607 Dempsey Road.

Invite your friends even if they live in another neighborhood. This program is open to all. We want to educate as many teens and parents as possible to the risks and dangers of the Internet. There is no cost to attend this program.

E-mail Pam Clegg of the HRAA at [blockwatch@huberridge.org](mailto:blockwatch@huberridge.org) or call Phyllis Van of Faith Covenant Church at 430-8162 (during the day) if you have questions.

—Pam Clegg, Block Watch Coordinator

## HRAA Annual Clothing Drive

On Sunday, November 11, we will be down in Ridgewood Park from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. collecting clothing for our annual HRAA clothing drive. Once again for our third year, all collected clothing will be donated to W.A.R.M./A.W.A.R.E.

All clothing donations will be cleaned and distributed to local churches in the Westerville School District to help those families in need. In other words, the donations stay local and could be benefitting your neighbor, friend, etc. As you make room for new school clothes and replace winter clothing that does not fit, please bag them and hold onto them until November. We'll see you in the Park!

—James Welch, President

## Neighbors Parade for Labor Day Celebration

The morning of Monday, September 3, exploded with the sound of excited children and adults alike assembling and then parading from the Huber Ridge Elementary School to Ridgewood Park in celebration of Labor Day. This was the first annual Huber Ridge Labor Day parade, which was deemed a great success and enjoyed by many neighborhood residents (see photographs to the right).

Led by enthusiastic Blendon Township Police Officers Cromwell and Moore, parade participants first met in the parking lot of the school and began to parade up Buenos Aires Blvd. at 10 a.m. There was a wonderful display of patriotically decorated bikes, trikes, wagons, dogs, and even a skateboard! The police officers added to the celebratory atmosphere by sounding their sirens periodically and turning on their lights as they blocked cross streets to allow paraders to pass.

Once the parade reached the patriotically embellished entrance flowerbeds of Ridgewood Park, the children took delight in the playground equipment and ice pop treats supplied by the Huber Ridge Area Association. The adults enjoyed time getting to know fellow paraders and neighbors as well as indulging in a few ice pops of their own. The celebration wrapped up with a decoration judging contest of the parade vehicles. Judges weren't able to decide which entrants were the best so everyone was awarded medals for their efforts.

Winners in the judging contest are as follows: Iroquois, 11.5; Alexis, 10.5; twins Steven and Caila, 9; Harley, 8; Michael, 10; Rachel, 7; Thomas, 8; Taylor, 4; Andrew, 7; Greg, 12; Kaitlyn, 6.5; Kayla with dog Nemo, 6; friends Savannah and Allison with dog Bailey, both age 10; dog Ruger with Brooke, 10, and Courtney, 12; Taylor, 10; Alex, 11; Joey, 15; Christin, 9; and Logan with Tucker the dog, 8. Excitingly, participants came from all corners of the neighborhood!

The many supporters of this event who helped to make it possible are the Blendon Township Trustees; the Blendon Township Police Department; Huber Ridge Elementary School; Huber Ridge Apple PTA; and, of course, the Huber Ridge Area Association. The parade certainly was a fun community activity, and we'll be looking forward to next year's event!

—Carolyn Cordray, Welcome Committee Coordinator

## HRAA Profile: Lori Mann

"Recycling is something I've done forever. Our family recycled almost everything!" says Lori Mann, the Park Cleanup Day Coordinator for the Huber Ridge Area Association. Lori's interest in recycling started early when, as a child, she

## Were You There?



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*Serving the Huber Ridge Area Since 1987*

Come relax on our new patio  
and play Bocce ball.

Lunch Buffet from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.—\$5.99  
(stromboli, pizza, wings, salad)

Happy Hour from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

**Stromboli    Pasta    Chicken Wings    Pizza**

**Phone: 899-6700 for Take-out**  
**Website: [www.carsonies.com](http://www.carsonies.com)**  
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<p style="text-align: center;">Carsonie's Italian Restaurant 6000 Westerville Road <b>\$2 off any stromboli or pizza</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Carsonie's Italian Restaurant 6000 Westerville Road <b>\$3 off on any entree</b></p>
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Expires on November 30, 2007    Expires on November 30, 2007

collected pop bottles and turned them in for cash.

When the Manns moved to Huber Ridge in 1997, Lori's son, Garrett, was in the fourth grade and participated in the Woods Walks in Ridgewood Park led by Denise Mundy. Lori was a volunteer at Garrett's school and enjoyed showing a bunch of kids a little spot of nature in our neighborhood. A few years later, Lori as a Boy Scout leader was looking for service projects and chose to clean up Ridgewood Park as one of the projects. The Boy Scouts under Lori's leadership have done the park cleanup for the last *five* years—the last two years with the HRAA!

Lori has been employed in the Archiving Department at McGraw Hill for three years. Last June, she and eight others from the Environmental Care and Easton Environmental Concern committees traveled to McGraw-Hill headquarters in New York City to receive the award for Community Service during the Corporate Achievement Awards ceremony. Lori reports, "Out of the thousands of employees world-wide in all the divisions of The McGraw-Hill Companies, only one group is honored with this award each year. We attended the awards ceremony, a reception, and dinner as guests of Harold McGraw III, CEO of McGraw-Hill, along with about 100 other winners from around the world."

What did they do to win this award? Lori explains, "Our building recycles aluminum cans, 1 and 2 plastic, toner and inkjet cartridges, office paper, cardboard, glass bottles, "techno-trash": used CDs and DVDS, audio and video cassettes, plastic jewel cases, floppy disks, retired and broken electronic devices—pretty much anything we can convince our co-workers to keep out of the waste stream." The money received from this recycling is donated to the organization formerly called Keep Franklin County Beautiful for educational purposes and to other organizations or groups for projects including Garrett's Eagle Scout project—replacing the bridge in Ridgewood Park woods.

"We promote green practices at work," Lori says. These practices include "Lug a Mug" (using your own cups or mugs, not foam), car pooling, taking the steps instead of the elevator, and printing on two sides of a sheet of paper. "We also have a section of freeway we clean regularly for the Adopt-a-Highway program."

Lori states that watching people put things in their trash cans every week that can and should be recycled is her pet peeve. "You pay to have it hauled away, or it could be earning money somewhere," she says of recyclables. She recommends the following recycling locations:

- ✿ Blendon Township Senior Center for plastic, paper, cardboard, and aluminum
- ✿ SWACO bins at Home Depot for household items that the Senior Center doesn't take

- ✿ Kurtz Brothers for yard waste
- ✿ Ohio Mulch for electronics
- ✿ AutoZone for used motor oil
- ✿ Your own compost pile for garden waste, vegetables and fruit, coffee grounds and filters, non-meat kitchen scraps (It's free mulch!)

Lori and husband, Byron, continue their involvement in Scouts even though son, Garrett, has completed his Eagle Scout requirements. Byron is a printing press operator at Vincent Direct in Hilliard. Garrett is enrolled in the automotive/diesel technology at Universal Technical Institute in Glendale Heights, Illinois. Max, a 14-year-old gray cat; Daisy, a 4-year-old Jack Russell; and Oliver, a 6-or-7-year-old Siamese (who lives with Garrett) round out the Mann household. When she has time, Lori likes to quilt and garden.

The HRAA salutes Lori Mann for her efforts to make our community—our environment—a better place to be! She is an inspiration to us all!

—Marje Obrist, Newsletter Editor

## HRAA T-Shirts Are Available Now!

Your community association, the Huber Ridge Area Association, has purchased 100 t-shirts with our logo on it. The shirts are available for \$10 each, and sizes range from M to XXL. Show your support for our community and the Association and be seen in one of these t-shirts. The color is gray because we all know what happens to white when washed in this community. ☺

The proceeds go back to the HRAA to support the community functions throughout the year. Have you seen any difference in the Park in the last two years, the Labor Day bike parade, the Halloween party, the entry signs to the community, etc.? Let's put some community pride back in our community!

T-shirts can be purchased at our monthly HRAA meetings, community events, or just by asking/e-mailing any HRAA Executive Committee member.

—James Welch, President

## Smokers, Beware!

You would expect this article from me, a nurse, to be a plea for you to stop smoking; but I will refrain and tell you about how the tobacco companies are sneaking up on you.

First, let's agree that nicotine is a drug and that it is addicting (you can say habit forming if it is more comfortable for you). True, some people are not as prone to addictions as others—my husband is not; I am—he quit smoking easily; I had a terrible time.

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\$1.25 Domestics • \$2.25 Imports  
1/2 Price Pool

### WEDNESDAYS

Ladies' Night  
Ladies play for FREE!  
\$1.00 Drinks

### 150% PAY-OUT TOURNAMENTS

FRI: Darts \$5 Entry  
SUN: 9-Ball on 9 Footers \$10 Entry

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DRINK SPECIALS!

Come enjoy all Buckeyes games  
with FREE food!

HAPPY HOUR OPEN - 7

ALL AGES  
UNTIL 6 P.M.



So over the past eight years, with fewer people smoking and less money coming into the tobacco companies, the companies have increased the nicotine content by 11.3 percent in all types of cigarettes—even the light and ultralight. The more nicotine, the more addiction!

This report isn't of a fly-by-night study; it was conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health researchers through an analysis of 1997 to 2005 data on the smoke yield which cigarette companies submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Health. You can access the report at [www.hsph.harvard.edu/nicotine/trends.pdf](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nicotine/trends.pdf).

See, wasn't I good not to preach? Stop smoking! Oops!  
—Joya Neff, BSN, MPH, RN, Resident Nurse

### Garage Sale a Big Success

Thank you to all who participated in this year's HRAA community garage sale. Our goal for this year was 50+ participants; the official tally was 62 participants!

The ads for this year's garage sale—courtesy of Barbara Crawford from **Century 21, Joe Walker & Associates**—was featured in *This Week* in Westerville, Worthington, Gahanna, New Albany, Northland, and Clintonville. Signs were deployed in areas with the highest concentration of **registered**

participants. Residents at 6200 Arnett won the \$20 gift certificate for Carsonie's in the raffle.

Your annual \$15 membership to the HRAA will go a long way toward helping us maintain and improve events such as the garage sale and the Halloween party.

—Brian McMahon, Vice President

### 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  
\$225 per issue for a full-page ad

## Are YOU Eligible to Join HRAA This Year?

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

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

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

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

—Brent Sheffer, Treasurer



### HUBER RIDGE AREA ASSOCIATION 2007 MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Names of Adults)

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

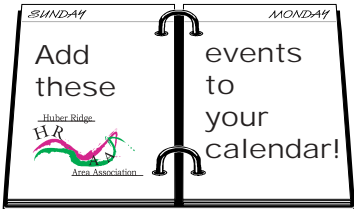
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone)

2007 membership dues are Fifteen Dollars (\$15) *per household*. Dues may be paid at any meeting or mailed to **Brent Sheffer, 5663 Bashaw Drive, Westerville, OH 43081**. Please make checks payable to the Huber Ridge Area Association and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for your membership information.

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

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



- October 4** HRAA Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
- October 16** Blendon Township Trustee Candidates Night at Faith Covenant Church at 7:00 p.m. OR **October 17** at Minerva Park Community Center at 7:30 p.m.
- October 27** Halloween Haunted Park Costume Party in Ridgewood Park at 6:00 p.m.
- November 1** HRAA Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
- November 6** ELECTION DAY
- November 11** HRAA Clothing Drive in Ridgewood Park from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
- December 6** HRAA Meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.