

VOTE ON SAFETY SERVICE LEVIES MARCH 15, 2016

A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

Blendon Township voters will decide on Safety Service Levies in the primary election on March 15, 2016. Both expiring levies for the Police and Fire/Emergency Services (EMS) produced less money than expected due to the recent recession. The drop in property values caused decreased funding for these very important services. They are aimed at maintaining a level of service for Police and Fire/EMS you have come to expect. A great deal of time and effort has gone into keeping the costs as low as possible, but reports show it will cost more money for the next five years to maintain our existing level of services.

Due to State Law, the rate of these levies is reduced over time so that the revenues generated by the levy do not increase as the value of properties increase. Therefore, as the cost of delivering these services increase, the City and Township must periodically seek an increase in the approved tax levy rates to capture the inflationary value that state law otherwise prohibits. We believe these levies are necessary to maintain the level of Police and Fire/EMS services that you deserve.

What is the 2.8 mill property tax issue Blendon Township and the City of Westerville proposing? The Westerville Division of Fire, which provides Fire and EMS to the residents and businesses by contract to those of Blendon Township, is funded by a series of dedicated, voter-approved property tax levies in the City and Township. (The City of Westerville will hold its own levy for their residents).

How much am I currently paying for this service and what will this increase cost me? Currently, property owners are paying roughly \$350 per year for Fire and EMS services for every \$100,000 of home market value. If voters approve this levy request, they will pay an additional \$98.00 per year, or \$8.17 per month, (less than a 28 cent per day increase) for every \$100,000 of home value.

What is the 5.75 mill property tax issue Blendon Township Police proposing? The Blendon Police Department provides police protection 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Police levy provides over half of the total police department's operating budget. The current expiring levy is 4.0-mills. This proposed levy would only be a 1.75-mill increase. With this levy, the annual cost to the resident based on a \$100,000 market value will be \$176.10. That is only 48 cents per day, and only an increase of 15 cents per day for every \$100,000 of home value.

Passage of these levies is crucial if we expect Police and Fire/EMS services to be maintained at the present level. We thank you for all of your support.

Jim Welch, Stew Flaherty, and Jan Heichel and Fiscal Officer, Wade Estep

- Look for more information from Fire Chief Brian Millar on page 4 & 5

Article Highlights

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- Holiday Stories
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/352250756442/>

2015 Holiday Lights Contest Results

Elves canvassed every street in the neighborhood **more than once** to give a list to "Santa" of potential winners. With input from the elves, Santa selected the top three based on light display, extent of decorations, wow factor, uniqueness, appeal, judges' discretion, and with previous year's winners in mind. (There is a five year wait to be a return winner.)

Seems the milder weather encouraged more to decorate, so choosing winners was extra challenging this year. **Thank you**, to all who decorated and made our community look great. Congratulations to our winners!

First place: Rudd family 3349 Arnett Court

Second place: Krann family 3571 Panama Drive

Third place: Joint effort from Snyder family, 3545 Makassar Drive and Slagle family, 3551 Makassar Drive

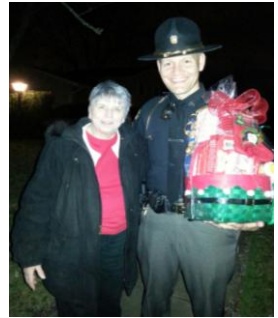
The first place prize is \$50 cash donated by the Huber Ridge Area Association, Inc. and a LARGE basket of fabulous treats donated by an anonymous benefactor who cares very much about having a great looking community. Second place prize is \$35 cash (HRAA, Inc.) and large basket of goodies (benefactor donation). Third place is \$25 cash (HRAA, Inc.) and large basket of wonderful treats (benefactor donation). The HRAA, Inc. and the same benefactor have been awarding displays since 2008. Thank you! We live in a great community!

-Sharon Ricker
Holiday Lights Event Coordinator



1st place

Rudd Family



Sharon Ricker & Detective Moynihan delivering prizes



2nd place

Krann Family



The "elves" were invited inside The Krann home to see the beautiful inside decorations as well!



3rd place

(←Slagle)



(←Snyder)



Snyder (left) & Slagle (right)

Holiday Cheer

Once again, our Huber Ridge neighbors proved their generosity by donating over \$700 this year for our holiday cheer family. Seven huge, black bags of gifts were delivered to WARM for our family to pick up in mid-December, and the parents were overcome by the gesture. They wrote a note to the Huber Ridge Area Association which read:

"Thank you so very much! This means the world to our family. We literally had no idea what we were going to do. My husband was laid off and we are really struggling. Thank you so, so, so much."

The family does not know who supplied their Christmas; the notes are written and the folks at WARM forward them to the donors so it remains anonymous. Among the gifts were not just the requested items, but additionally gas and grocery gift cards were added.

We received additional money after the original cutoff, so those funds will be used towards our holiday cheer family for 2016. And a special thanks to all who donated money as well as our shopping elves Moriah and Stephanie Tucker and Nicola Giachetti, Angie Merrin for donating gift wrap, our treasure of a treasurer who kept track of the money - Pam Clegg, and Dennis Overholts who really got the money rolling in.

Thanks and many blessings to all who contributed in making a Huber Ridge family's Christmas one filled with joy.

-Claudia Carney
Secretary

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Owner - Giovanni Garcia

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Fire Levy – March 15

By now, Huber Ridge homeowners and residents may have heard or read about an impending levy for fire protection and emergency medical services for Westerville and Blendon Township. As Fire Chief, I feel it is important to reach out and explain the need for this levy on your ballot Tuesday, March 15, 2016. I am very proud of the high quality service the Fire Division provides to the community, and we're working hard to assure that level of service continues.

The Westerville Division of Fire meets National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards for response times, with an average response time just under 4 minutes. We have been evolving for many years, and the decision points we face ahead promise ongoing change. However, we continue to offer the best, highest-quality fire protection with our resources. I'm proud to say the Westerville Division of Fire recently received an upgrade in its rating from the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) to class "2" following an evaluation and assessment of the department this fall. ISO rates fire departments/districts on a 10-point scale, with class 1 being the best possible rating and class 10 being the worst. Ultimately, a better ISO rating translates into money saved for the residents and businesses.

Our history has always been focused on providing a high level of fire protection. For example, when we introduced compressed air foam systems (CAFS) in 2005. For emergency medical services, we were the first department in the state of Ohio to use C-PAP devices to treat patients with respiratory illnesses. We have also deployed a new device on our Medic vehicles which automates the chest compression on patients in cardiac arrest. WFD implemented a basic life support (BLS) squad in 2007 to reduce our use of fire trucks responding to medical emergencies while at the same time providing a better service to residents keeping our advanced life support (ALS) vehicles in service more frequently.

With our refurbishing of large apparatus to delay purchasing new equipment, we have been able to stretch tax-payer resources. All of this was accomplished with our mission in mind, to develop innovative concepts providing cost-effective services that are responsive to the needs of the community.

Now we're facing new-generation needs and service demands that we must meet in a fiscally responsible manner. Demand for fire, rescue and EMS services has steadily grown every year for several decades and technology is ever changing. WFD has utilized every available resource to meet changing demands, which has enabled us to keep our promise of carefully managing fiscal resources from the 2010 2.6 mill levy to last a full six years. This was accomplished despite those tax revenues running over \$600,000 less per year than projected by the County.

The facts of our future are these:

Increased Demand For Emergency Medical Services. EMS calls have grown 12% between 2008 and 2014 alone, and continue to steadily increase. Westerville firefighters also perform as fire inspectors and emergency medical technicians to answer the call whether for fire protection or life-saving action and transport.

-continues on page 5



Fire Levy – March 15 (continued)

Changing Face of Fire Protection. Construction of new homes and commercial buildings has improved fire prevention, but there is still a need for personnel and equipment to respond quickly when called. The average WFD response time remains under four minutes.

Increased Demand For Fire Inspections. Population and commercial growth has increased demand for fire inspection services. In 2014, WFD conducted nearly 2,500 commercial inspections, a number we expect to sharply rise as new business enters the community.

Disaster Preparedness. Preparation and training for a variety of disasters, natural or otherwise, is the responsibility of WFD as your public safety agency.

EMS Prevention and Community Paramedicine. Programs are developing in response to Westerville and Blendon Township’s increased emergency medical service needs. Older adults and other populations in the community will have access to education and technical assistance in health maintenance, including programs for issues such as fall prevention.

Aged Equipment. WFD has a tradition of refurbishing equipment to extend its life cycle as often as possible. However, within the next six years, it will be critical to replace one engine/rescue and potentially two engines. EMS vehicles that cannot be refurbished may require replacement within that cycle’s time period.

This 2.8 mill levy request allows us to continue to meet our mission of providing these and more services, as the profession and community continue to evolve. Passage of 2.8 mills assures continuation of current service levels through 2022. This allows the Westerville Division of Fire to maintain required staffing levels in consideration of expected growth in call volume. This funding would annually cost a homeowner approximately \$98 per year for every \$100,000 of market value or \$8.17 per month.

Please visit the website (www.westerville.org/fire) to learn the specifics of this request, which we believe is vital to the overall operation of the Fire Division. I want you to understand why it is necessary, and how it will impact you, pass or fail.

Thank you for your support, and please contact me directly if you have any questions: (614) 901-6606.

-Brian Miller
Fire Chief

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Be In the Know!

www.facebook.com/pages/Huber-Ridge-Area-Association

The Huber Ridge Area Association, Inc. hosts the very popular Huber Ridge Area Association Facebook page. If you are a resident in our neighborhood and are on Facebook we encourage you to join in the conversation. The primary purpose of the page is to communicate and promote the programs, initiatives, activities and events of the Huber Ridge Area Association, Inc. Our page sees a wide range of conversations between neighbors and we find that most topics are informative and relevant to Huber Ridge news. We also have a wide range of residents that belong to our Facebook group from children to seniors. Before you join the page you'll need to be aware of a few of our page guidelines and for those of you who are already on the page, this article serves as a reminder of our guidelines.

First, our page is a closed one so you would need to request to be added but even if your neighbor "adds" you to the page you would still need to be approved and added by one of the page administrators. Current administrators are Chris Stevko and Carolyn Cordray. You will then receive a private message from one of the administrators via Facebook asking you to verify your address. Please respond to the message otherwise you will not be accepted to the page. Unfortunately, there are many hackers and spammers on Facebook so this verification step is necessary to assure that we admit residents of Huber Ridge to our page and that we don't accidentally allow one of these ne'er do wells onto our page and put all of our Facebook page members in jeopardy of being hacked or spammed.

Once you are verified as a resident and added, we ask that you read our posting guidelines. Here are a few of the guidelines we'd like to review in this article:

GENERAL CONVERSATION – Most posts are just fine on our page. We just ask that everyone be mindful that we have residents of all ages on our page (children to seniors) so let's remember to take the high road and avoid salty or offensive language. We strive to create and maintain a friendly neighborhood online community so we ask that you respect that when you are added to our group.

LOST AND FOUND - It's pretty clear that we are a neighborhood with many animal lovers, often times we will see posts about loose or lost animals. The page is a good forum to garnering help from neighbors particularly when dealing with the stress of locating a lost pet particularly since we have so many busy roads around us and reports of coyotes in the vicinity. Please feel free to use the page for this type of communication but we do want to remind you that Blendon Township Police (614-889-9494) should also be contacted in the case of a loose or lost animal as should the Pet FBI and the Franklin County Animal Shelter.

NON-COMMERCIAL SERVICES – We do allow residents to post services available by individuals (non-commercial services) offering such services as lawn mowing, snow removal, dog walking, intermittent babysitting, etc. This guideline was inserted for the express purpose of addressing services often times offered by children or teens for spending money. The intention was to provide neighbors a way of finding a neighborhood child/teen to provide such services and a way for the child/teen to let it be known they are available. Because the HRAA is dedicated to child safety online, these services provided by children/teens must be posted by the parent. We recognize that there are commercial companies that also provide these same services, some of which are owned by residents. We don't permit commercial companies to post on our page advertising these services unless they meet the guidelines of advertising (see below).

RECOMMENDATIONS – We also see quite a few posts asking for recommendations for various services. Many neighbors have expressed appreciation for suggestions or feedback when they need to seek out help with repairs, projects or other services. Posting requests for recommendations are just fine. If you're replying, feel free to provide feedback on your experience as long as you take the high road with your comments on negative experiences. We can't permit comments that are disrespectful or disparage any person or business. If you can't express your feedback without disrespectful or disparaging language you should not post and perhaps instead should send your comments in private to the requestor.

ADVERTISING – Our posting guidelines specifically prohibit advertising of commercial businesses. Of course there are a few exceptions (see posting guidelines on the Facebook page) but posts solely advertising commercial businesses get removed. We have had a few repeat violators who have been removed from the page because we don't consider our page to be a forum for advertising your business. We do offer the opportunity for commercial businesses to purchase advertising space in quarterly issues of The Herald, please contact Carolyn Cordray at President@huberridge.org for details.

-article continued on page 7

Be In the Know! (continued)

COMMUNITY – The purpose of this page is primarily to communicate news of the Huber Ridge Area Association, Inc. and “to provide a forum for residents for its residents to respond to issues of common concern, to promote public improvements and safety within the community, and to encourage social activities and unity among members of the community.” The HRAA, Inc. is committed to hosting this page where conversation that is friendly and neighborly in nature. Very early on in the history of this page, however, the association did decide that certain posts were “off topic” for the type of discussions we were trying to facilitate. Such topics are politics and religion as our association has no political or religious affiliation and does not endorse any political candidate, political party or religious group. Additionally, comments that are disrespectful, abusive and hateful or intended to defame anyone or any organization won’t be permitted. Bullying of any kind also will not be allowed.

FOR SALE – Items for sale should not be posted on the Huber Ridge Area Association Facebook page. Chris Stevko has setup a separate page for this purpose called Huber Ridge For Sale, Free and Wish List. The HRAA does sponsor two Community Garage Sales each year, on the days of those sales we do permit residents to promote their garage sale, but only on those days. Posts advertising garage sales any other day are removed.

IMPORTANT – Residents should not use the Huber Ridge Area Association Facebook page in lieu of reporting an issue to the proper agency or entity with the responsibility and resources to directly resolve your situation.

A few examples:

CRIME: If you witness or suspect criminal activity report it immediately to the Blendon Township Police Department (614-889-9494). If you then want to post information about incident as a caution to neighbors **AFTER** you have reported it, that’s fine but these sorts of things should be first called into the proper authorities for handling as quickly as possible. The sooner you report, the more likely it will get resolved properly and safely. It is after all, why we have our own police force here in Blendon!

TRASH: If Rumpke misses picking up your trash or recycling or yard waste (and you’re sure you haven’t overlooked paying the bill or brought it to the curb after they already collected from your street) you should always first phone Rumpke (1-888-786-7531) and report the lapse in service. It would be a good idea to document your contacts (date, time and issue) for reference later if you need it. You can also post your issue on their Facebook page. If you feel that it might be helpful to neighbors to know that Rumpke skipped you, it’s fine to post that **AFTER** you have reported it to Rumpke, some have found it useful to know if the entire street was missed, be sure to post if you reported it to Rumpke! If it was the whole street, Rumpke should get phone calls from everyone in that case!

WATER: If your Aqua Ohio water bill seems excessively high one month you should first contact Aqua Ohio to see if they can help with the situation. If not, you can reach out to Jeff LaRue who is employed by Aqua Ohio as a community resource, you can send him a private message via Facebook. He is also a member of our Facebook page. Jim Welch, Blendon Township Trustee and Huber Ridge resident has helped many neighbors locate leaks thus resulting in lowering bills. It is best to contact Jim directly rather than to post it on our Facebook page.

CODE MAINTENANCE: All issues that fall under the maintenance code (code violations such as tall grass, fence repair, sidewalks or other repairs that need to be made to residences or properties) can’t be resolved by posting on Facebook. Certainly don’t post pictures of the violation or name the neighbor, post an address or license plate number. All of that should be directed to Branch Wayt who works for Blendon Township and will help facilitate a resolution. Branch’s contact information is 614-356-9752 or bwyt@blendontwp.org.

STREET REPAIRS: The Blendon Township Service department is helpful in resolving maintenance and repair issues in the common areas around the neighborhood such as streets, drain covers, street lights, and the park. Contact John Giamarco and his crew at 614-882-2673 or jgiamarco@blendontwp.org.

We have touched on many topics in this article regarding posting to the Huber Ridge Area Association Facebook page. It does seem like a long list, but once you are on the page you’ll see the types of conversations that are happening in the neighborhood. We hope that if you aren’t already on our page that you consider joining.

-Carolyn Cordray
President

2016 Standing Committee Coordinators Make Things Happen

The HRAA, Inc. is fortunate to have members and neighbors who lead our association's standing committees. Standing Committee Coordinators are appointed positions and the individuals who take the lead on these committees really give our association depth in terms of the various activities, events, programs and functions performed. There are a few opportunities this year with our standing committees so if you have an interest in volunteering some time toward helping one of the groups please contact the Coordinator or Carolyn Cordray, President of the Huber Ridge Area Association, Inc.

Block Watch Coordinator – Lynn White, Blockwatch@huberridge.org and she is also on Facebook. Our Block Watch is an active and dynamic group always looking out for the safety and security of our neighborhood. Sign up to be a block watch representative on your street, the list of active reps are not published so as to protect the identity of our volunteers. Duties of a Block Watch rep are to be willing to keep an eye out for incidents that seem out of the ordinary with potential for preventing crime and report the incidents first to the Blendon Township Police Department then to Lynn. If you are uncomfortable with reporting to the police, then report directly to Lynn who will contact Blendon Township Police Department. In addition to keeping a watchful eye and reporting, our Block Watch program offers training throughout the year so attendance at these are highly recommended.

Herald Distribution Coordinator – Eric Cordray, HeraldDistribution@huberridge.org and he is on Facebook. Eric coordinates a network of area captains and newsletter deliverers for each printed issue of the Herald. Our spring, summer and fall issues of *The Herald* are printed and then hand delivered to each home in the Huber Ridge Area as well as a few other township locations.

Membership Renewal Coordinator – Thom Conley, Dues@huberridge.org and he is on Facebook too. Thom maintains the membership roster for the HRAA, Inc. by sending out reminders to members when their \$15 annual dues are once again payable, accepting dues payments and maintaining our master membership spreadsheet. Since dues are payable based on a rolling annual basis, meaning that your dues are again payable 12 months after the time they are last paid, it can be difficult to remember when it is time again to pay. Please feel free to contact Thom if you have questions as to when your dues are payable.

Historical Coordinator – Almina Smock Weibel. 614-882-3345 Long-time resident, Almina has documented our history for quite some time. If you have any photos, newspaper clippings or other documentation of historical significance to Huber Ridge and are willing to share, Almina would be happy to add that to her archive of items to display.

Beautification Coordinator – Lori Mann, Beautification@huberridge.org and she is also on Facebook. Lori heads up the efforts to refresh the beds around our entrance signs. An avid gardener, Lori looks for help with cleaning up the beds, laying down new mulch and planting to help make this first impression of our neighborhood cheerful and fresh.

Communication Coordinator – Chris Stevko, Communication@huberridge.org and she is also on Facebook. Chris along with Carolyn Cordray partner to manage both our website and Facebook page. Updating with stories, calendar items, and stories about upcoming events as well as administration of approving residents to our Facebook page. Chris is also the administrator for the Huber Ridge For Sale – Free – and Wish List Facebook Page which she created for residents to have a place to post items for sale since our association Facebook page does not allow posting items for sale.

Hospitality Coordinator – Janet Brown who is reachable on Facebook. In this role, Janet helps our association in reaching out to HRAA, Inc. members with greeting cards when we are made aware of circumstances such as births, illnesses and deaths.

Blooms Coordinator – Pam Clegg, Treasurer@huberridge.org. and she is also on Facebook and administrator of the Blendon Huber Ridge Blooms Facebook Page for this event. Each year Pam searches for entrants for this very popular event and contest sponsored in part by the Huber Ridge Area Association. This event highlights the stunning, artful and serene gardens of residents in both Huber Ridge and Sunbury Woods. This event has done quite a lot to raise the bar of beautification throughout our community.

Kiosk Coordinator – Jim Welch. At the direction of the Huber Ridge Area Association, Inc. Jim is given new posters to put into the four neighborhood sign kiosks to help promote and advertise the various neighborhood events, activities and programs.

Holiday Cheer Coordinator – Claudia Carney, Secretary@huberridge.org and she is also on Facebook. This program has seen three holiday seasons with terrific success with Claudia at the helm. This is a program where a resident of our neighborhood is the benefactor of donations collected through the Huber Ridge Area Association, Inc. at holiday time. A family is vetted through Westerville Area Regional Ministry (WARM), donations are collected, then Claudia and her team of elves shop for items on the list provided by WARM for our family. The gifts are then taken to WARM where the family picks them up.

Holiday Lights and Decoration Contest Coordinator – Sharon Ricker. Each year Sharon puts together beautiful prize baskets to deliver with a Blendon Township Police Officer to the residents with the top three holiday lights and decoration displays as determined by our HRAA, Inc. elves. The Huber Ridge Area Association, Inc. is a sponsor of this annual event.

More Joy 5K Run Coordinator – Angie Merrin, huberridgeeditor@gmail.com and she is also on Facebook. Last year was the first year for this event for which the HRAA, Inc. was a sponsor and among the organizers for this event. Angie and former resident Mary Gould, were the coordinators of what turned out to be a highly successful 5K, especially for its first year. There will be another run again this year so if you are interested in helping out in the planning, contact Angie.

For more opportunities to pitch in or coordinate this year please see page 9 “Help Make Things Happen”.

Help Make Things Happen

Membership Coordinator – With less than 10% of our residents on the rolls as members in good standing (meaning who have paid their \$15 dues up to date) of the Huber Ridge Area Association, Inc., our association is in great need of someone who can head up the effort to increase our membership. We'd love to see this grow into a committee to help support this effort with a variety of ideas, events and activities to entice residents to pay their dues and join the association and support our programs, initiatives, events and activities with not only their dues but volunteer time. At this point we are holding our own; however, without someone to lead the charge in building membership we can't exist forever without growing. Please contact Carolyn Cordray if you're interested in helping to build HRAA, Inc. membership.

Halloween Party Coordinator – One of the most popular events sponsored and coordinated by the HRAA, Inc. each and every year for several years now. We are looking for someone to head up this annual favorite. We already have a list of individuals willing to take on coordinating areas of the party such as the Haunted Woods and Trunk or Treat, we are just looking for someone to take on this year's overall coordinator role. Or how about two coordinators? Again, if interested, please contact Carolyn Cordray, 614-446-4020 (phone or text) or President@huberridge.org if you are interested in coordinating or helping out with this event. Coordinators must be members in good standing with the Huber Ridge Area Association, Inc. so if you're not already a member what better reason to join than this?

The Herald Deliverers

Although our winter issue of *The Herald* is an online issue, the remaining issues (spring, summer and fall) are printed and hand-delivered to each home in The Ridge. We'd like to thank everyone involved in this massive effort to get the newsletter to all of the residents.

Area A – Homes north of Dempsey. Captains: Eric and Carolyn Cordray. Deliverers: Gary Morse, Angela Lauer, Stephanie Norris, Pam Herb, Leah Adkins, Emily Patterson, Damien Brandon, and Jennifer Newton.

Area B – Balboa streets and Paris N. Captain: Diane Lobdell. Deliverers: Karen Boley, Jean Pifer, Nick and Jo Lugin, and Diane Lobdell.

Area C – Brazzaville, Canberra, Dakar, parts of Paris Blvd, Rangoon, Saigon, Vienna and part of Cairo. Captain: Doug Dapo. Deliverers: Jubal Wagner, George and Diane King, Joya and Bob Neff, Lori and Byron Mann, Susan Dapo, Ron and Suzi Jones, and Angie Merrin.

Area D – Bangasi, parts of Cairo, Karikal, Makassar, Manila, Bader, Batavia and part of Dempsey. Captain: Pam Clegg. Deliverers: Julia Mathias, Matt and Jackie Shumaker, Don Smith, Clair Turk, Jeff Hoover, and Pam Clegg.

Area E – Parts of Buenos Aires, Caracas, La Paz, Lima, part of Panama, part of Paris and Veradero. Captain: Linda Royse. Deliverers: Debbie Komaromy, Eric and Carolyn Cordray, Chris Stevko, Ron Bricker, Tom and Hilda Desteuben, Shanna Gordon, and Boy Scouts.

Area F – Parts of Buenos Aires, Copenhagen, Madrid, Oslo, Panama and Stockholm. Captain: Claudia Carney. Deliverers: Tom and Hilda Desteubens, Sharon Ricker, Betsy Briggs, Leslie Jordon, and Claudia Carney.

Area G – Bashaw, Bogata, Managua, Mexico, Montevideo, Natalie Ct, Santiago and Spohn. Captain: Lynn White. Deliverers: Doug Murphy, Pam Gavan, Matt Sherman, Robin Whipkey, Duff Kelley, and Lynn White.

Area H – Acapulco Place, Harbin Drive, Lisbon, Dublin-Granville and the Blendon Township Police Department and Senior Center. Captains: Jean Welch. Deliverers: Jim and Jean Welch.

Halloween Party Wrap Up

On October 24th we celebrated our Annual Halloween Party at Ridgewood Park. The event happens rain or shine, and unfortunately it rained. No. It poured, but that didn't stop people from all over Blendon Township dressing up and making the most of it!

We had more games for the kids than ever! The Haunted Woods was creepier this year than last! We weren't able to have the Trunk or Treat participants give out candy, but the cars still looked great!

While the weather did make things a little difficult, the kids lined up under the pavilion while volunteers handed out candy until it ran out! The snack stand was still pumping out hot dogs and popcorn at record speed until they ran out! Children enjoyed the costume contest and story time in the Gazebo by resident Kelsey Spicuzza. The rain can't stop us!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time! We couldn't have had this event without you! We look forward to seeing you again next year, with much better weather!

-Mary Gould

thank
you!



Huber Ridge Love

Have you ever walked around our neighborhood and thought to yourself how lucky we are? Our Township cares about the residents. We have wonderful trustees, a fantastic police department, a dedicated service department, and are fortunate to have Westerville/Blendon Township Fire Department servicing our area. We have the beautiful Ridgewood Park right in our neighborhood, friendly neighbors volunteering their time through the HRAA, Inc., and Huber Ridge Elementary School right in the center of the neighborhood. Surely I am missing more, but how lucky are we?!?

With home sales on the rise let's help show everyone how great our neighborhood is and possibly increase the value of our homes. We can start with little things like cleaning up our yards, shoveling snow (how great would it be if all the children could walk to school/bus stop on shoveled sidewalks), fixing that broken shutter, and/or planting flowers in the spring. But let's go above and beyond! Because I know together we can continue making our neighborhood more than great but excellent! Let's continue doing home improvement projects, but also help our neighbor with theirs'. Let's pickup the trash in our yard, but also in others' as we walk through the neighborhood and/or wait for our children at school. Let's be a community that cares for each other, helps each other, and volunteers their time to make the Huber Ridge neighborhood one to be envied. Together we can make a difference!

-Angie Merrin
The Herald Editor

School Drop Off and Pick Up

We all love having a great school right in the heart of our neighborhood! But there are a few problems when it comes to dropping off/picking up our children. There are signs in the drop off lane that tell you where to start the line. Many parents want to stop right at the front doors. However, there are too many children who need to be dropped off to do this. Everyone needs to try and pull as far forward as possible. It is not safe for the children to get out where there are no sidewalks.

Additionally, drivers are stopping in the bus only zone, delaying the time bus drivers are able to park and safely get the children off the bus. Quite a few residents who live on Buenos Aires Blvd (the same street as the school) have expressed their frustration of drivers blocking their driveways preventing them from getting in and out of their homes.

We all know it can be a bit messy during these busy times. I do know the school really tries to make things go as smoothly as possible, but we need to help them with this situation by practicing patience, consideration and understanding. This is our neighborhood and we love it here. As a community we all should strive to help.

I personally have a few ideas. I honestly think there should be parking on only one side of Buenos Aires Blvd during these times. There should also be volunteers to help with the drop off and pick up times. If there were just a few people that could help with getting the kids out of the vehicles that would make drop off smoother. We need to work as a community and with the school to figure out a way to get the children to and from their vehicles quickly and safely. There really needs to be a township meeting (and have the Westerville Superintendent in this as well) to discuss a resolution to our concerns. Thank you all for your time.

Support

Issues #10 and #11 on March 15, 2016

for Blendon Safety Services



Advertisement paid for by

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*We would like to thank *The Flaherty Consulting Group* for supporting *The Herald* through this paid advertisement.

-Kelly Rauckis-Rudd
Concerned Resident and Parent

2016 HRAA Officers

Officers:

Carolyn Cordray - President (President@huberridge.org)

OPEN - Vice-President

Claudia Carney - Secretary (Secretary@huberridge.org)

Pam Clegg - Treasurer (Treasurer@huberridge.org)

Angie Merrin - Newsletter Editor (huberridgeeditor@gmail.com)

HRAA Committee Coordinators:

Lynn White - Block Watch Coordinator (Blockwatch@huberridge.org)

Thom Conley - Membership Coordinator (Dues@huberridge.org)

Eric Cordray - Newsletter Distribution Coordinator (Newsletterdistribution@huberridge.org)

Chris Stevko - Communications Coordinator (Communications@huberridge.org)

Janet Brown - Hospitality (Hospitality@huberridge.org)

Lori Mann - Beautification Coordinator (Beautification@huberridge.org)

Almina Smock-Weibel - Historian

Jim Welch - Kiosk Coordinators

2016 officers were elected at the January meeting. The position of Vice-President is available to a member in good standing (dues paid to date). In this role the duties are to arrange for speakers at our general meetings and to coordinate the two community garage sales. Please contact Carolyn Cordray if you are interested in this position.

Calendar of Events

At the January HRAA, Inc. general meeting, the membership present agreed on the following dates of events, activities and programs of the Huber Ridge Area Association, Inc. for 2016. **Our membership has moved our general meetings to Mondays this year to better suit our individual calendars.** Be sure to clip this article out and save the date for your favorite HRAA events!

4/4/2016	HRAA, Inc. General Meeting, Blendon Township Senior Center, 6330 S Hempstead Rd
5/7/2016	HRAA Annual Plant Swap, Ridgewood Park – FREE EVENT!
5/14/2016	Beautification-entrance sign clean up. Volunteers needed, 9am
5/21/2016	HRAA Community Garage Sale-Register your sale for FREE Advertising!
6/6/2016	HRAA, Inc. General Meeting, Blendon Township Senior Center, 6330 S Hempstead Rd
6/11/2016	Blendon Township Concert in the Park
7/10/2016	Blendon Huber Blooms Garden Show and Contest
7/16/2016	Blendon Township Concert in the Park
8/1/2016	HRAA, Inc. General Meeting, Blendon Township Senior Center, 6330 S Hempstead Rd
8/2/2016	National Night Out
8/6/2016	Ridge-A-Palooza! Joint community event co-sponsored by HRAA, Inc and Faith Covenant
8/27/2016	Blendon Heritage Day, More Joy 5K Run and Concert in the Park (plenty of volunteer opportunities)
9/17/2016	HRAA Community Garage Sale – Register your sale for FREE Advertising!
10/3/2016	HRAA Inc. General Meeting, Blendon Township Senior Center, 6330 S Hempstead Rd
10/22/2016	Halloween Party, Ridgewood Park, 6pm to 8:30pm
11/16/2016	Holiday Cheer Program Kick-Off
12/5/2016	HRAA Inc. General Meeting, Blendon Township Senior Center, 6330 S Hempstead Rd
12/16/2016	HRAA Holiday Lights and Decoration Contest

Our newsletter, The Herald, is scheduled to be printed and delivered in April, July and October.

We are planning some Block Watch events but the dates are not yet determined. Please be sure to watch our website at www.huberridge.org and our Facebook page “Huber Ridge Area Association” for details on all calendar events and upcoming plans for Block Watch.

Advertising Rates

Advertise your company and business in *The Herald* and reach hundreds of potential customers! If you are interested in placing an ad in our fall issue, please contact Carolyn Cordray.

Advertising rates are as follows:

- \$25/issue for a business card ad
- \$65/issue for a quarter page ad
- \$125/issue for a half page ad
- \$225/issue for a full page ad

Why Become an HRAA Member?

-Strong vibrant neighborhoods don't just happen. They're the result of collective effort and hard work. You invest a lot of time and money into your home and property. Joining the Huber Ridge Area Association, Inc. is how to invest and build (Y)OUR community.

-The Huber Ridge Area Association, Inc. (HRAA) brings neighbors together to create events and programs that promote a greater sense of community. Such events and programs the HRAA already has in place are:

- Blockwatch Program
- Quarterly Newsletter
- HRAA Facebook Page
- Huber/Blendon Blooms
- Sponsor of Concert in the Parks and 5k
- Holiday Cheer Program
- Annual Plant Swap
- Clean-Up/Landscaping Entrance Signs
- Website www.huberridge.org
- 2 Community Garage Sales
- Holiday Lights Contest
- Ridge-A-Palooza
- Regular Membership Meetings
- Halloween Party in the Park

-The HRAA, Inc. creates opportunities for community service in which our neighborhood children attending Westerville Schools can participate, receive credit and fulfill this school district recommendation for a minimum of 3 hours of community engagement be met each year.

-The HRAA, Inc. has been a leader in bringing forward and coordinating efforts to impact change in issues important to residents such as water rate hikes through the PUCO and coordinating Meet the Candidate nights. Additionally, provides a forum for residents to learn about important changes to our township such as JEDZ, Community Plan, etc.

-Membership provides the funds used to bring these events and programs to the residents as well as to better communicate important matters to the neighborhood. It will also support events and projects determined valuable by our membership.

-As you can see, the HRAA, Inc. is actively involved in a range of issues that impact our community, so it is well worth the small investment of \$15 annually.

-Whether you can be an active participant or a supportive member, we need your paid membership so the HRAA, Inc. can be a catalyst for improvement in our neighborhood! The HRAA, Inc. is guided by orderly processes intended to protect and best serve the neighborhood. Membership allows your household to vote when decisions are being made – let your vote count!

-Make an investment in the future of your neighborhood, all this for a mere \$15 per year annual dues. Why NOT join? Make an active choice today to be a part of our FUTURE! Become a member of the Huber Ridge Area Association today. Dues can be paid at any meeting, through paypal at www.huberridge.org or by mailing in the form below.

Huber Ridge Area Association, Inc. Membership Form

Name(s) of Adult(s) _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Membership dues are \$15 per household. Dues are for a 12-month period and may be paid at anytime throughout the year. Checks are to be made payable to the Huber Ridge Area Association, Inc. Mail dues to: Thom Conley, 3533 Makassar Drive. Westerville, OH 43081