

*'I Hate To See Things Messed Up'*

# Hilliard Retiree, 79, Keeps It Clean Around Underpass

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Seventy-nine-year-old Herman Wolpert of Hilliard doesn't like litterbugs, so he's doing something about it.

For the past month, Wolpert of 4169 Avery Rd. has been cleaning up the littered areas around the Conrail underpass on Cemetery Rd.

"I'VE GOT the time," said the retired farmer and grocer. "And I hate to see things messed up. Especially the underpass, since so many people worked so hard to get it."

Once a week, Wolpert arms himself with a plastic trash bag and walks a mile to the underpass. When he's done, the area is virtually free of litter.

"It doesn't take much over 30 minutes or 45 minutes to pick up everything. I find all kinds of things over there. Bags, bottles and cans — whatever they're eating," he chuckled.

**WOLPERT CONTINUED**, "About a month ago I told Mayor (Roger) Reynolds that the area looked so bad and I'd been so happy to get that underpass. I told him I'd be happy to clean it up."

The exercise doesn't bother Wolpert, although he suffers from arthritis. He usually takes a three-mile walk a couple of times a week.

His fondness for the underpass, which was completed last summer to offer Hilliard residents respite from the lengthy freight trains which roll through town, is genuine.

"I HELPED PASS petitions (urging that the underpass be built)," he noted. "Reynolds would call me when we were gathering signatures and say, 'I've got a street that I can't get to. Can you?' And I'd say, 'Sure.'"

His wife, Viola, estimated her husband gathered many more than 200 signatures on his own.

Wolpert, who with his brother used horses to plow the fields of their Davidson Rd. farm, is completely in favor of the improvements which have come to the Hilliard area.

"I ALWAYS WAS for improvements, especially if they make things a little easier for people," he said.

Wolpert said he sees no end to his chores. As long as there are litterbugs, he'll be out by the underpass cleaning up.

"As long as I keep walking, there's no reason why I shouldn't," he said with a smile.



HERMAN WOLPERT AT WORK ON THE UNDERPASS

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