A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

It is our pleasure to present Blendon’s 2017 summer newsletter. Inside you will find important news about your community and contact information for township services. Each issue also is available online at www.blendontwp.org. Our website is getting a new look this year. We hope you enjoy it. We also want to thank our residents for “pardoning our dust” as the construction to improve our cemetery, Smothers Road Bridge, and the State Route 3 corridor moves forward. In closing, we thank all of you for your support and we pledge to work hard each day to make this a better community for everyone.

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

BLENDON TOWNSHIP RESIDENT SURVEY

In order to better serve our residents, the Blendon Township Trustees commissioned a public opinion survey administered by Strategic Research Group. The purpose of this survey was to evaluate Blendon Township services, programs, and our website in order to best meet community needs and ensure high levels of service.

This web-based community survey was available to residents between February 17 and March 27, 2017. Overall, respondents seem to have a positive view of life in Blendon Township. When asked about living in Blendon, the positive responses were more numerous than the negatives. Questions about communication, safety, township services, and community events were also covered. The entire survey and report findings can be viewed online by visiting www.blendontwp.org.

We would like to thank everyone who took their time to participate in the survey! Your opinions and suggestions are invaluable towards making Blendon a great place to live.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST FOR THE 2018 BLENDON TOWNSHIP CALENDAR

Calling all Blendon Residents! You are encouraged to help create Blendon’s next 2018 calendar. Join your Trustees by capturing images of Blendon’s nature, people, family activities, and events that tell a story through your eyes of living in our township. We need photos from all seasons. If your photograph(s) are chosen for our calendar, you WILL win prizes!

All entries will be posted at each summer concert at Ridgewood Park. Winners will be chosen by vote in August by all the attendees of our Heritage Day summer concert. Come be a part of our new Blendon Heritage Day Art Festival! Please note, only high-resolution photos will work for the calendar. Many cell phone cameras do not take pictures with high resolutions. There is no age limit or limit to the number of entries.

Some photographs may also be chosen to be featured on Blendon’s website and newsletters. A signed release must accompany your photo submissions. Visit our website at www.blendontwp.org for more information and submission guidelines. Thank you for showcasing some of Blendon’s best nature, family, and fun photography.

RIDGEWOOD PARK TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

The lovely nature trails of Ridgewood Park have been improved! Some areas were becoming muddy and impassable at times. Planked boardwalks have been installed that are slightly raised off the ground to provide a smooth surface in any weather. We invite you to come and see what all the excitement is about! Our green space is an important part of what makes Blendon Township beautiful.
**A MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF BRIAN MILLER**

**FIRE RISK: VENTILATION FANS**

Bathroom ventilation fan fires are a common occurrence. The Fire Division for Westerville and Blendon Township has seen an increase in calls related to bathroom ceiling exhaust fans. These ventilation fans are not made to run continuously. They are to be used for a period of time while exhausting the moisture in the bathroom. It is very important to turn your ventilation fan off before you go to bed or leave the house, or when it is not in use. Fires are caused when these ceiling fans in bathrooms are left running for a long period of time and overheat. Additionally, bathroom fans can build up lint and dust over time. Under the right conditions, the motor can overheat and ignite nearby combustible materials. It is important to inspect and clean bathroom fans regularly. The Fire Division recommends removing the cover and using a vacuum attachment to clean the fan blade and its components. Make sure to shut off the circuit breaker prior to beginning to clean. Another recommendation: have your bathroom vent fan replaced by a certified electrician every 10 years. If you notice the noise level of the fan increasing or if the fan begins making any unusual noises, it may also be time for a replacement. The ultimate safety solution is to have an electrician replace the standard on/off switch with a timer that will automatically shut the fan off after 20 or 30 minutes.

Thank you,

Brian Miller, Chief
Blendon/Westerville Division of Fire

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**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AWARENESS**

Since 1984, National Night Out has been observed on the first Tuesday in August to bring attention to the related issues of Crime Prevention and the concept of Neighborhood Watch. It started with Americans being asked to turn on their porch lights early, from 6 – 8:30 PM, as a public statement against crime. Beyond that simple effort, people were encouraged to get out on their front porches, or to walk their neighborhood sidewalks and to meet any neighbors that they did not already know. Some communities hold Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Watch events on National Night Out.

By getting to know our neighbors, and by letting them get to know us, the whole neighborhood becomes engaged in the shared experience of life and community. Neighbors begin to look out for each other and more easily recognize situations that may be a crime in progress, a health emergency, a lost child, or other situations that indicate a need for help from neighbors, police or other emergency responders.

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**NOTES FROM THE CHIEF**

**MAJOR AWARD!**

This year, the State of Ohio Department of Public Safety awarded a LASER speed measuring device (LIDAR) to the Blendon Township Police Department. The State has awarded us LIDARs, RADARs, and cruiser cameras in the past, but this one is my favorite. For many years our department has always been in the running for these awards because of the outstanding efforts of Sergeant Branch Wayt, followed by Sergeant Erick Moynihan, and our hardworking Officers. The blitz periods for annual programs like “Click it or Ticket” and “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” DUI (later called OVI) have been our way of winning free equipment from the State. The State watches what the various police departments do, and they award this equipment, based on enthusiasm, professionalism, productivity, creativity and public feedback. For our size department, we have always been at or near the top of the competition. The reason that this particular LIDAR is my favorite is because it was given without a contest, program or blitz period. The State had an extra unit and decided to award it to a police department based on reputation and past performance alone. The administrator of the program said based on that criteria, the first department he thought of was the Blendon Township Police Department. I could not be prouder of the Officers and the staff here at BTPD. And it looks like the Ohio Department of Public Safety is pretty darn proud of us too!

**DO NOT SHOOT GUNS TO CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Every Fourth of July and every New Year’s Eve, our Officers respond to multiple calls of illegal fireworks and gunshots. Both are extremely dangerous. Shooting a gun to celebrate a holiday is a tragedy waiting to happen. Just do not do it! Bullets shot up into the air come back down to earth at deadly velocity. Bullets shot into the ground or at other objects can ricochet (bounce/skip). Every year numerous people are killed or permanently disabled in tragic firearms accidents that did not have to happen. Just do not do it!

**NEXT WOMEN’S SELF DEFENSE CLASS**

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, October 7th, 2017 from 8am – 2pm. When we get a little closer there will be a sign-up page on our website. We will also announce on Facebook and our website when the sign-up page is activated.

Thanks,

Chief Belford
Blendon Township Police

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Sign up for Free Blendon Text Message Alerts at www.blendontwp.org (Home Page)
MEMORIAL DAY

Kicking off the Memorial Day weekend, Boy Scout Troop #471 and local Girl Scouts held a beautiful Flag Ceremony at Blendon Central Cemetery. With proper flag etiquette, they displayed professional respect as they placed new flags on our veterans’ graves and hung new flags on our flagpoles.

Our traditional Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony brought together members of the community to honor our soldiers, those men and women who have served in order to defeat terrorists, ensure justice, and fulfill the promise of safety and security for our citizens and the global community. Some of them have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

The event began with a Presentation of Colors by the American Legion Young-Budd Post #171. Robert Ricker, a Blendon Police Officer and US Army veteran of Operation Iraq Freedom, gave a touching speech. It was an emotional reminder of how much there is to be thankful for our freedom and our great country. The Trustees presented a wreath to honor our fallen veterans. The ceremony was followed by a community picnic for all in attendance. Now would be a good time to mark your calendar and plan to attend this beautiful event next year.

The photographs above show the scouts kicking off our Holiday weekend with their Flag Ceremony and the American Legion’s 21-Gun Salute.

FREE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP OFF

The Westerville Area FREE Household Hazardous Waste Drop off Day is Saturday, September 9th at the Westerville Service Department, 350 Park Meadow Road, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This service is provided by Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO). For a list of accepted and non-accepted items, please visit www.swaco.org. (This program is NOT offered free to businesses. Businesses should contact EEI at (614) 294-1300 to inquire about disposal costs for hazardous materials.)

Disposal of oil-based paint will be provided at no charge. There is a $1 fee per any size can of water-based paint. Latex and water-based paints are water soluble and are not considered hazardous. These can be disposed of using the following method: Add paint hardeners, cat litter, or sawdust to left over paint to solidify it. Leave the lid off (safely away from children and pets). Once dried, it can be disposed of with regular trash.

SWACO also provides FREE Household Hazardous Waste disposal services at a permanent drop-off location at 645 E. 8th Avenue, (The corner of E. 8th and Essex Avenue) Columbus, Ohio. For their current hours and days of service, please call them directly at (614) 294-1300.

BLENDON CENTRAL CEMETERY EXPANSION

Blendon Central Cemetery offers many options for both in ground or cremation burials. It has a long-standing history and respected reputation. It is a place you can choose with confidence for your loved ones’ final resting place.

This past spring, the Trustees added a striking obelisk shaped columbarium. It offers an affordable, dignified place for interment of funeral urns. Also, two additional columbaries were constructed with 312 niches each. A beautifully landscaped garden lies between the columbaria sections with resting benches for prayer and meditation. Each new structure is faced with beautiful brown granite. The photographs below show our construction and completion. We invite you to stop to see this beautiful new addition. Other improvements to our cemetery include road construction and drainage enhancements. These developments will extend the use of the cemetery for years to come.

For more information about our cemetery, contact Linda Harter at (614) 882-2215, Monday – Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or visit her office at 6350 Hempstead Road.
OTHER IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS
July 12th and 26th
August 9th and 23rd
September 6th and 20th
October 4th and 18th
6330 Hempstead Road, 6:30 p.m.

W.A.R.M. FREE SUMMER LUNCH CLUB
May 30th–August 11th, Monday–Friday (Rain or Shine) (Except July 4th) 11:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Ridgewood Park, Huber Ridge Subdivision
No registration is needed, just show up and join in the fun! For more information visit www.warmwesterville.org and click on “Services” at the top of the webpage and select “Kids Lunch Club.”

SUMMER CONCERT
Saturday, July 15th  Chris Logsdon.
6:00-8:00 p.m. Chris was the overwhelming peoples’ choice for 2016 ColumBEST Solo Musician!

SUMMER CONCERT
Saturday, August 26th    No Regrets.
6:00-8:00 p.m. See Heritage Day Calendar for details.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AWARENESS
Tuesday, August 1st 6:00-8:30 p.m.
See article in this newsletter for details.

FREE SWACO HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP OFF
Saturday, September 9th
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Westerville Service Department, 350 Park Meadow Road.
See article in this newsletter for details.

WOMEN’S SELF DEFENSE TRAINING
Saturday, October 7th
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road
For more information visit www.blendontwp.org

BLENDON’S HERITAGE DAY EVENTS
SATURDAY, AUGUST 26th

FREE HOT DOGS, CHIPS, KID’S FACE PAINTING, BOUNCE HOUSES, KIDS OBSTACLE COURSE, PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW/CONTEST, AND MORE!

10:00 a.m. 14th ANNUAL SENIOR CAR SHOW
Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road
Expect family fun, beautiful cars, trophies, food, music, and more. Contact Charel Bowman (614) 882-1260 or cbowman@blendontwp.org to register.

4:00-6:00 p.m. VINTAGE BASEBALL GAME
The Ohio Village Muffins will play Blendon residents for a rematch in Ridgewood Park. Team players for Blendon are needed! The Ohio Village Muffins of the Ohio History Connection will provide period-appropriate clothing and explain the rules of 1860 baseball. Please consider taking part in this fun game and invite your friends to join too! Last year Blendon lost the game. Help us win this year. To sign up, contact our Service Director JGiamarco@blendontwp.org or call (614) 882-2673.

6:00-8:00 p.m. BLENDON’S PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW AND CONTEST
Come see the photographs taken by your friends and neighbors of Blendon Township. You can vote for the best pictures for Blendon’s 2018 calendar. Winners WILL receive prizes! See the article in this newsletter to learn how you can enter your photographs.

6:00-8:00 p.m. FREE CONCERT!

NO REGRETS Come see central Ohio’s premier iconic rock band complete with big hair, spandex and a great set of 80’s songs. Huber Ridge resident, Paul Koval, is part of this band. Be sure to come out to watch one of our own!

2017 Heritage Day Saturday, August 26th!
FREE, FUN, FAMILY DAY!

Do not miss the Blendon Township Heritage Day Celebration August 26th!
HELP CONTROL THE MOSQUITO POPULATION

You can decrease the mosquito population. Mosquitoes are a familiar summer nuisance. They also present a potential health risk because they can transmit diseases such as Encephalitis, West Nile Virus, and Zika Virus.

Mosquitoes require standing water for their young to hatch and develop. Once eggs are laid, a new crop of mosquitoes can hatch, grow, and emerge from the water as adults in as little as one week. Most mosquitoes stay very close to their juvenile habitat when they emerge as adults. Females look for hosts to bite nearby. Eliminating mosquito habitats around your home can prevent bites, reduce your risk of disease, and make your summer evenings more enjoyable. Here are a few simple suggestions that can make a big difference in controlling the mosquito population in your own back yard:

• Empty, remove, cover or turn over any container that has the potential to hold water.
• Make sure gutters and downspouts are free of blockage and are properly draining.
• Properly dispose of old tires.
• Empty planters that hold water twice each week.
• Empty your pets’ watering dishes daily.
• Drain or fill low areas on your property that hold water for more than three days.

Blendon Township service employees will post notification signs before spraying for mosquitoes. Also, if you are in need of Mosquito Alotosid Briquets (Easy-to-use biological mosquito control for ponds, rain barrels, etc.), please contact our Service Director at JGiamarco@blendontwp.org or call (614) 882-2673.

If you have additional questions or need more information about mosquitoes, call Franklin County Public Health’s Mosquito Bite Line at (614) 525-BITE (2483) and leave a message; your call will be returned. You can also visit www.myfcph.org.

BLENDON TOWNSHIP AWARDED MARKER FROM THE OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION

The Ohio History Connection has provided a beautiful new marker for Blendon’s Phelps Acre Park. The park has a rich history:

The first Blendon Presbyterian church was built on what is now the front corner of the Blendon Central Cemetery. The land was donated by Timothy Lee. The church was built by its parishioners and was dedicated on December 6th 1829. Sadly, it was burned to the ground later that night in what was believed to be the work of arsonists.

Edward Phelps donated the land just across the road. Local residents built a new church there and held services from 1830 to 1865. It is believed the church was abandoned after the building of the Central College Presbyterian Church. The empty church was carried away piece by piece.

The current Board of Trustees wondered if the church’s foundation was still there within Phelps Acre Park. They used ground penetrating radar to search for the foundation. It was located just four inches under the ground and identified to be twelve to eighteen inches deep. It was a rubble type foundation, made up of bricks, rocks, and fieldstone laid in an open trench. Three corner stones were also discovered.

Today, bricks have been placed to show the exact location of the foundation of this historic church along with the actual corner stones. The rubble foundation remains in the ground where it was placed during its construction in 1830.

The original bell of this church was previously displayed at the Central College Presbyterian Church. We are grateful to them for allowing us to bring this historic bell back to its original site in Phelps Acre Park. We invite you to visit this fun little park with a big historical significance and see its new marker.

RIDGEWOOD PARK MEMORIAL GARDEN

ENGRAVED MEMORIAL BRICKS ARE AVAILABLE

A beautiful Memorial Rose Garden has been added to Ridgewood Park in honor of Blendon resident, Jane Juergens. It is located along the water’s edge of Spring Run Creek. Here in this peaceful environment we can remember Jane and all of our loved ones.

Engraved memorial bricks are now available for placement in the garden to pay tribute to the memory of a loved one, friend, or special occasion. An honorary gift provides a beautiful way to recognize someone special. Order forms can be obtained on our website at www.blendontwp.org. Go to: Departments - Blendon Central Cemetery - Memorial Brick Application. Forms also can be picked up in the Administrative Building at 6350 South Hempstead Road. Return your completed form along with a check payable to Blendon Township. The total cost for the brick, engraving, and placement is $50.00.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES:
Jan Heichel, Chairman
JHeichel@blendontwp.org
(614) 890-0650

Jim Welch, Vice Chairman
Jim.Welch@blendontwp.org
(614) 306-8080

Stew Flaherty, Trustee
SFlaherty@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-1270

Fiscal Officer:
Wade Estep
Wade.Estep@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-1270

ADMINISTRATOR:
Bryan Rhoads
Bryan.Rhoads@blendontwp.org
(614) 839-2013

TOWNSHIP OFFICES:
Linda Harter, Cemetery Administrator
LHarter@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-1270
(614) 882-2215 (cemetery office)

POLICE DEPARTMENT:
John Belford, Police Chief
JBFeld@blendontwp.org
Emergency 911
Dispatcher (614) 889-9494
Office (614) 882-8500

FIRE DEPARTMENT:
Brian Miller, Fire Chief
Brian.Miller@westerville.org
Emergency 911
Office (614) 901-6600

ROAD/SERVICE DEPARTMENT:
John Giamarco, Service Director
JGiamarco@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-2673

SENIOR CENTER:
Charel Bowman, Director
Cbowman@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-1260

CODE ENFORCEMENT:
Branch Wayt, Property Maintenance Inspector
bwayt@blendontwp.org
Office (614)356-9752

OTHER IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

American Electric Power
(800) 277-2177

Columbia Gas Company
(800) 344-4077 customer service/emergency
(including gas odor emergency)

Blendon Township Zoning
(614) 839-2013

Franklin County Building Permits
(614) 525-3166

Aqua Ohio Water Company
(877) 987-2782 or (614) 882-6586

Rumpke Waste Removal
(800) 828-8171 All customer service inquiries
Email for service concerns can be sent to:
Refuse@blendontwp.org

Franklin County Public Health:
For public health inquiries (614) 525-3160
For reporting failing Sewage Systems polluting the ground surface or draining into waterways,
(614)525-4787 or http://myfcph.org/npdes

Report Emergency Spills:
Ohio EPA 24-Hour Hot line (800) 282- 9378
Report any other water pollution to Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District
(614) 486-9613
Environmental Crimes Task Force of Central OH
(614) 871-5322 or www.itsacrime.org for reporting illegal dumping of paint, oil, or other solid waste into a stream, storm drain or any other body of water.