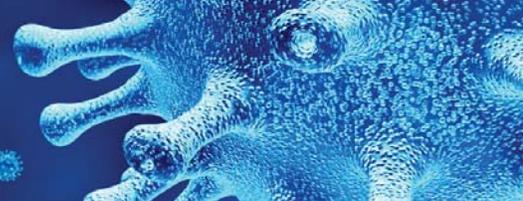


COVID-19

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE



BLENDON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER SPECIAL EDITION REGARDING THE COVID-19 VIRUS

A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

The Blendon Township Trustees and department leaders are closely monitoring COVID-19's (Coronavirus) spread as its impact continues to be broadly felt across the globe and in our neighborhoods. We are taking extra precautions to help deter the spread of this virus. The safety of our residents, their families, and our employees is our utmost priority. Some Township services need to be temporarily modified. We are following the State of Ohio guidelines to minimize social contact for all of the Blendon Departments.

The COVID-19 virus is changing rapidly. There might be additional changes to our services. Please don't hesitate to call us if you have any questions, concerns, or needs. These times are unprecedented, and we want you to know we are here to help.

*Jan Heichel, Stew Flaherty, Jim Welch,
and Fiscal Officer, Shawn Smith*

On Monday, March 16th, Blendon Township declared the following:

PUBLIC TRUSTEE MEETINGS

At this time, all meetings will continue to take place in the Blendon Township Senior Center to conduct Township business. Only essential staff will attend. Please be sure to check www.blendontwp.org for any changes.

OFFICES OF THE SERVICE/ ROAD DEPARTMENT AND CODE ENFORCEMENT

We have closed the Road/Service Department and the Code Enforcement Department to the general public. No walk-ins are permitted—otherwise, their business is carrying on as usual. Our Service Director, John Giamarco, can be reached via email at jgiamarco@blendontwp.org and our Code Enforcement Officer, Branch Wayt, at BWayt@blendontwp.org.

POLICE ROUTINE RESPONSE

Residents should continue to call our non-emergency radio dispatcher (614-889-9494) for police reports and non-emergency situations. If you call the dispatcher for a non-emergency situation, expect a phone call from one of our officers to take the report over the phone, if possible. You can also file a police report for non-serious incidents on-line at www.blendontwp.org. The police station is open for walk-in service during regular office hours, Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. Police Officers will continue to be on duty and patrol 24/7.

POLICE, FIRE & EMS EMERGENCY RESPONSE

No change. Our emergency First Responders will continue to provide all emergency services as in the past, without significant modification and interruption. Call 9-1-1 for any emergencies. Police Officers will continue to be on duty and patrol 24/7.

TOWNSHIP OFFICES

Our staff is working their regular hours. They are conducting business by telephone, email, and on-line. No walk-ins. If anyone needs emergency assistance such as prescriptions, food, etc., please call the Senior Center office at (614-882-1260) or our Administrative office at (614-882-1270.) We are not abandoning you.

Seniors' are the most vulnerable group of people to be exposed to COVID-19. Because of this virus, we are taking extra precautions by closing the Senior Center, effective immediately. We hope to re-open April 6th; however, this date is subject to further adjustment, if necessary.

• The tax preparation assistance held at the Senior Center has been canceled until April 6th.

• Voting will take place in the Senior Center on Tuesday, March 17th. Only those voting will be allowed in the building.

• The Free Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt has been canceled.

• All other activities, trips, and classes are canceled until April 6th or until further notice.

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PLANNING IS KEY

A COVID-19 outbreak could last for a long time in any community. Depending on the severity of the epidemic, local public health officials may recommend community actions designed to help keep everyone safe, healthy, reduce exposures to COVID-19, and slow the spread of the disease. As you read this newsletter, you will see that Blendon Township Trustees are making changes within our complex. Creating a household plan will help you protect your health and the other family members in your home. You should base the details of your household plan on the needs and daily routine of your household members. Add extra sanitizing to your household plan such as wiping countertops, doorknobs, cabinet handles, and telephones every day. Also, avoid close contact with people who are sick, avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, and stay at home if you don't feel well.

BEWARE OF SCAMMERS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF FEARS SURROUNDING THE COVID-19 VIRUS

Tips to help keep them at bay:

- Don't click on links from sources you don't know. They could download viruses onto your computer or device. Watch for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or experts saying that they have information about the virus.
- For the most up-to-date information about the Coronavirus, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Ignore online offers for vaccinations. There currently are no vaccines, pills, potions, lotions, medicines, or other prescription or over-the-counter products available to treat or cure Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) — online or in stores.
- Please do your homework when it comes to donations, whether through charities or crowdfunding sites. Don't let anyone rush you into donating. If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don't do it.

CHECK ON YOUR NEIGHBORS

In Blendon Township, we have several seniors, new families, and single-parent families. Many of you have offered assistance on Facebook to anyone in need. We thank you for that. We are a community family. Your actions make us beyond proud. Together, with open communication, we can help one another.



CENTERS FOR DISEASE
CONTROL AND PREVENTION

PREVENTION TIPS TO HELP YOU AVOID THE NEW CORONAVIRUS

There is currently no vaccine to prevent infection. The best way to do so is to avoid exposure to this virus. The CDC recommends the following every day preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:

- *Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.*
- *Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.*
- *Avoid close contact with people who are sick.*
- *Stay home when you are sick.*
- *Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.*
- *Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.*

For daily updated news on the COVID19 virus, please visit www.cdc.gov.

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TEXT ALERTS

Now is a good time for all residents to sign up for **FREE TEXT ALERTS**. Stay informed through Blendon Townships **FREE TEXT ALERTS**. We send alerts for emergencies and meeting/event date changes. To sign up for the alerts, text zbc64674 to 313131. Your registration information will never be sold or shared.

BLENDON CENTRAL CEMETERY

Our Cemetery office will be open its regular business hours, Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. Our staff will conduct business by telephone and email only. Please contact Linda Harter at LHarter@blendontwp.org or (614-882-2215).

SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER

Seniors are the most vulnerable group of people to be exposed to COVID-19. Because of this virus we are taking extra precautions by closing the Senior Center, effective immediately. It is scheduled to re-open April 6th; however, this date is subject to further adjustment if necessary.

- The tax preparation assistance held at the Senior Center is canceled until April 6th.
- Voting will take place in the Senior Center on Tuesday, March 18th. Only those voting will be allowed in the building.
- The Free Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt has been cancelled.
- All other activities, trips, and classes are canceled until April 6th or until further notice.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED)

Board of Trustee Meetings

6330 Hempstead Road, 6:30 p.m.

April 1st, 15th, and 29th

May 13th and 27th

June 10th and 24th

July 8th and 22nd

Community Clean-Up Days

Blendon Complex, 6330 Hempstead Road

Free Dumpsters & Tire Disposal

Friday, April 24th, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 25th, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 26th, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please visit www.blendontwp.org for acceptable and unacceptable materials/items.

Free Safe Medication Disposal

Saturday, April 25th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please no needles, sharps, or liquids

Wilder Elementary School Pioneer Run & Pancake Fun

Saturday, May 2nd

7:30 a.m. Race Day Registration

8:00 a.m. 100m Dash

8:30 a.m. 5K Start

Senior's Giant Garage Sale

Friday, May 8th, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 9th, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Along with items collected all year for this sale, you will see a bake sale and lunch!

Memorial Day Celebration

Monday, May 25, 11:00 a.m.

Free "Old-Fashion Picnic" following the ceremony in our Senior Center

W.A.R.M.

Monday-Friday, June 1st to August 7th

Free Summer Concerts

Ridgewood Park from 6pm-8pm

Saturday, June 13th

Saturday, July 18th

Saturday, August 15th

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BLENDON TOWNSHIP SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER 2020

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

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

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

Jan Heichel, Trustee
JHeichel@blendontwp.org
(614) 214-6786

Fiscal Officer, Shawn Smith
SSmith@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-1270

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

Blendon Township Office
(614) 882-1270 (admin)
(614) 423-6836 (zoning)

Cemetery Administrator
Linda Harter
LHarter@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-2215

Road/Service Department:
John Giamarco, Service Director
JGiamarco@blendontwp.org

Senior Center:
Charel Bowman, Director
CBowman@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-1260

Blendon Twp. Code Enforcement:
Branch Wayt, Property Maintenance Inspector
BWayt@blendontwp.org

Police Department:
John Belford, Police Chief
JBelford@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

Other Important Phone Numbers:

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

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

Franklin County Building Permits
(614) 525-3166

Central OH Environmental Crimes Task Force
(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.

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

American Electric Power
(800) 277-2177

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

Del-Co Water Company
Emergency/Customer Service:
(740) 548-7746
(800) 521-6779

SWACO
Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Center: 645 E. 8th Ave. Columbus, OH
(614) 871-5100 www.swaco.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://myfcp.org/npdes>

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COLUMBUS, OH
PERMIT #8160



Trustee Jan Heichel



Trustee Stew Flaherty



Trustee Jim Welch



Fiscal Officer
Shawn Smith