A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

In recent years, we have been actively addressing the condition of our township including roadways, parks, and cemetery. We have approved much needed repairs and upgrades as our budget permits. This newsletter will provide updates on some of our ongoing projects. As always, we thank you for your support, suggestions, and comments. We strive to fulfill the vision of our residents and we look forward to continuing our work for you.

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

NEW METRO PARK ADDITION IS COMING TO BLENDON TOWNSHIP!

A 98 acre parcel of land, located just north of Little Turtle Golf Club in Blendon Township, has been sold to the Metro Parks by the Shafer Foundation. It will become part of Blendon Woods. Thomas Bonasera (Trustee for the Richard H. and Ann Shafer Foundation), described it as “the most pristine property in Franklin County”. Plans include building a trail that will connect this park to Rocky Fork Metro Park, north of New Albany. Trails also will extend to the Hoover Dam area. This park district should take possession in about 60 days with the land remaining in Blendon Township.

Visitors will see something similar to Hocking Hills with 100 foot cliffs along the eastside of Big Walnut Creek with plenty of wildlife. It is filled with deep ravines that lead down to the creek and is dominated by soaring oak, hickory, and maple trees. Metro Parks’ goal is “to conserve the land that reflects what Ohio looked like pre-European settlement” and keep it as original as possible. Visitors will be able to explore the land on their own.

The property was originally purchased by Richard and Ann Shafer. Mr. Shafer was a local business man in road paving and other affiliated companies. They built their home off Lee Road on a 25-acre section of the property. In 1958, the Shafers established their foundation. Mrs. Shafer died in 1964. Mr. Shafer died in 1973, six years after marrying his second wife Fanny. When Fanny Shafer died in 2006, she willed most of her estate to the foundation.

Needless to say, the Blendon Township Trustees are very excited. Many times land is sold to developers to build condos, homes, and apartments. Knowing this hidden treasure will retain its natural beauty and be opened for all to enjoy is priceless.

The above photograph shows Metro Parks Director Tim Moloney on a stretch of Big Walnut Creek that runs through this newly acquired land in Blendon Township. Currently, the property is posted with “No Trespassing” signs. Honoring this rule, we did not take our own photographs. This picture was taken by Eric Albrecht/Dispatch Photos.
NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT BUENOS AIRES AND PARIS BOULEVARD INTERSECTION

We are pleased to announce that this project is completed. It was essential due to its’ traffic volume and close proximity to Huber Ridge Elementary School. The old wooden poles had settled over the years. This caused service lines to repeatedly sag and get clipped by utility trucks, in spite of repairs. No injuries occurred, but traffic disruptions did take place. The new poles have an attractive design, with underground instead of overhead wiring to improve safety for both pedestrians and vehicles. Thank you to everyone for following the temporary 4 way stop signs during the construction phase.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR
CONCERNING RUMPKE WASTE REMOVAL SERVICES

Some residents have been posting complaints, questions, and concerns about their Rumpke Waste Removal Services on Facebook. In order to track performance and address concerns, we ask all residents to report refuse pickup problems or compliments to refuse@blendontwp.org.

Allowing the township to report any problems directly to our trash provider will result in much quicker response times. For any other information please contact:

Bryan E. Rhoads, MPA
Township Administrator/Lieutenant
Blendon Township
614-839-2013
bryan.rhoads@blendontwp.org
www.blendontwp.org

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR POLICE CHIEF
DRUG ADDICTION - Not my problem?
COMMUNITY MEETING OCTOBER 25TH

Odds are that you either know someone who has a drug problem, or you know someone who has a loved one who is dealing with a drug problem. Drug addiction is contributing to the rate of theft in our neighborhoods. You (and your kids) are in the car, almost every day, along side other drivers on the road who are impaired due to opiates and/or Rx medications that produce similar effects. If you think this is not your problem, you might want to think some more.

On October 25th at 6:30 P.M. we are going to have a very special meeting at the Blendon Township Senior Center. It will be special because we are going to stop talking about the problem and start doing something about it. Please join us.

John Belford, Chief of Police
Blendon Township Police Department

WESTERVILLE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Our Westerville Road Improvements Project will soon be underway. It has been part of our five-year plan to upgrade this area. Now that ODOT has widened the road and finished the sidewalks, our next step is street lighting and other enhancements to add value and curb appeal for our community and businesses. Our thanks go to all those who worked on our Blendon Community Plan for their time, effort, and ideas for this project.
IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Board of Trustees Meetings
October 19th
November 2nd, 16th, and 30th
December 14th and 28th
6330 Hempstead Road, 6:30 P.M.

FREE Halloween Party
Saturday, October 22nd
Ridgewood Park, Buenos Aires Blvd.
6:00 - 8:30 P.M.

FREE Heroin and Rx Drug Community Outreach Meeting
Tuesday, October 25th
6:30 - 8:00 P.M.
Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road

Halloween and Beggars Night
October 31st    6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Women’s Self Defense Training
Presented by Blendon Police Chief John Belford
Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road
Saturday, November 5th
8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Election Day
Tuesday, November 8th

FREE Breakfast with Santa
Saturday, December 3rd
Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road
9:00 - 11:00 A.M.

FREE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

You are invited to the very popular Breakfast with Santa! Children accompanied by their parents and/or grandparents are invited to a FREE pancake breakfast with sausage, orange juice, and coffee. Children will get to visit with Santa and receive a special treat. Register today at the Blendon Senior Center at (614) 882-1260.

Where: 6330 Hempstead Road
Date: Sat. Dec. 3rd, 9:00 to 11:00 A.M.
RSVP by: November 30th. Reservations are required.
Cost: FREE with reservation. Donations are welcome.
Ages: Infant to 6th grade

Blended Township Administrative Office (614) 882-1270 www.blendontwp.org

SUNBURY WOODS COMMONS PARK UPDATES

New swings and a play structure for young children were installed at one end of the Sunbury Woods Common Area. These replaced old toys that were removed last year due to aging. We are pleased to announce that a second playset will be installed this fall! New trees will also be planted at various locations in Sunbury Woods. Thank you residents for your continued suggestions. Below is a photograph of the new play set to be installed.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR POLICE CHIEF:

WOMEN’S SELF DEFENSE TRAINING

The Blendon Township Police Department will again be offering a training course for Women’s Self-Defense Class on Saturday November 5, 2016 from 8 A.M.– 2:00 P.M. A light breakfast and afternoon snacks will be provided.

The course starts off in a table & chair classroom setting discussing common myths about women’s self-defense and an examination of the pros and cons of gadgets and weapons. We then move to the mats to cover simple, effective physical tactics that do not require complex moves or high repetition to master. This is a fun class in a relaxed, friendly environment. The class is designed to be low-impact, and safe for all fitness levels. If you just want to just watch or only try some of the tactics, please sign up and come anyway. If you are in a higher level of fitness and you want to ramp it up, we can accommodate that also! Toward the end of the day all participants will get a chance to test their new skills against a male police officer in a Red-Man Protective Suit (acting as “the bad-guy”).

Adult women of all ages are welcome. Girls, age 16 & 17, are allowed if accompanied by a parent or guardian. The parent or guardian does not have to participate in the class, but must be present for the entire six hours due to the (sometimes) frank & graphic discussion and training. Instructors are male and female Blendon Township Police Officers. Pre-registration and a $20.00 fee, to cover the cost of class materials, are required.

Sign up online at www.blendontwp.org, or in person, or by mail, at our police station: 6340 South Hempstead Road, Westerville, OH 43081. Deadline to register is Monday, October 31st by 4:30 P.M. Class size is limited so sign up today to reserve your spot!

John C. Belford, Chief of Police
Blendon Township Police Department
Other Important Phone Numbers:

American Electric Power  
(800) 277-2177

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

Blendon Township Code Enforcement  
(614) 356-9752

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

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

Environmental Crimes Task Force of Central OH  
www.itsacrime.org or (614) 871-5322, For  
reporting illegal dumping of paint, oil, or other solid  
wa...