

# BLENDON TOWNSHIP 2016 SPRING NEWSLETTER

## A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

What is your vision for Blendon Township? We enjoy hearing from you and encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas with us. We use as many of your suggestions as possible to help plan and develop our community's future. Thanks to your support, Blendon Township became a Limited Home-Rule community and a Joint Economic Development Zone (JEDZ) in 2012. Because of the JEDZ our successful partnership with Westerville is generating funds for our economic development. The Limited Home-Rule enabled us to recently secure bonds to speed up some of our much needed infrastructure repairs throughout the community.

We are currently organizing this year's construction. Improvements will include road maintenance, Westerville Road street lighting and enhancements, township wide infrastructure repairs, park improvements, and beautification projects, etc. Additional information on these projects which are being funded by the new bond money can be found in this newsletter. We continue to look for ways to add free services for our residents. As Trustees we are proud and privileged to represent you. We pledge to work hard each day to make this a better community for everyone. We thank you for all of your support!

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

## THANK YOU BLENDON RESIDENTS

Our sincere thanks go out to the wonderful residents of Blendon Township for their confidence and support. With the passage of the police levy we look forward to not only maintaining the current level of service, but also continued partnership with the community as we move forward in safety, crime prevention, and quality of life. Thank you,

*Police Chief John Belford*

## THANK YOU BLENDON RESIDENTS

We look forward to continuing the level and quality of service we've provided over the last six years and carrying that forward over the next six years. From the bottom of my heart, thank you very much. Your support and approval means fire protection and EMS safety are protected in our community. We appreciate your support. Thank you,

*Fire Chief Brian Miller*

## A NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT BUENOS AIRES AND PARIS BOULEVARD INTERSECTION

The wooden poles at the intersection of Buenos Aires and Paris Boulevard have continued to settle over the years causing service lines to repeatedly sag and get clipped by utility trucks, in spite of repairs. No injuries have occurred, but traffic disruptions have taken place. The Trustees have approved a contract with state contractors M.P. Dory for new traffic signals at the Paris and Buenos Aires intersection, to be completed before the start of the next school year. During the construction there will be 4-way stop signs at this intersection instead of a traffic signal.

## SUNBURY WOODS COMMONS PARK UPGRADES

New swings and a play structure have been installed at one end of the Sunbury Woods Common Area to replace old toys that were removed last year due to aging. It is a good place to relax and let your children play. We want to thank our Blendon Township Park Advisory Board for their suggestions for this charming "hidden gem" as well as other park improvement recommendations.



## WESTERVILLE ROAD CORRIDOR AND STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS

The Westerville Road Streetscape Improvement Plan was developed to evaluate the current and future development potential for the Westerville Road Corridor. It provides a comprehensive approach toward planning Blendon's future over the next 20 years. The plan serves as a guide for future development and policy decisions that reflect our community's vision and long-term goals balanced with an understanding of market place decisions. The plan can be viewed at [www.blendontwp.org](http://www.blendontwp.org) under the Economic Development link. Plans are already being implemented for 2016 upgrades. They include enhancements for Westerville Road's west and east interchanges, medians, street lighting, and more!



## MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

This Memorial Day we remember those who gave their lives to protect and preserve our country's freedom. Each year, the Trustees hold a Remembrance Service at Blendon Central Cemetery. It is our great privilege to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. We invite you to join us this Memorial Day, Monday, May 30th, at 11:00 a.m. We will be meeting at the flag pole in the Blendon Central Cemetery. Immediately following the service please join us for a **FREE** "old-fashion picnic" in the Blendon Senior Center. What a great way to celebrate all who have served with family and friends!



## BLENDON TOWNSHIP'S STREET TREE POLICY

Street trees provide many benefits to the community, but they must be appropriately planned, planted, and maintained to maximize those benefits for the homeowners and the community. The purpose of the Blendon Township Street Tree Policy is to ensure the public's health and safety. This policy defines proper planting and responsibility for maintenance of trees planted within the township's right of ways and tree lawns. It also lists acceptable and prohibited tree species. The entire policy is viewable at [www.blendontwp.org](http://www.blendontwp.org).

## 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](http://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.

The photograph below shows an aerial view of our beautiful Memorial Garden. Spring flowers include bright yellow daffodils followed by gorgeous red roses blooming throughout the summer and fall.



## COMMUNITY GARDEN

Telephone calls are already coming in about the up-coming planting season. What a great way to grow fresh food and have a fun time! For your convenience, our popular community garden is adding new garden tools to share and a second compost bin. Water is always available. You can register at the Administration Office at 6350 Hempstead Road during our regular office hours - Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., or by contacting our Administrative Assistant, Linda Harter at (614) 882-1270. For a complete list of rules for the Blendon Community Garden visit [www.blendontwp.org](http://www.blendontwp.org).



## SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

We are reprinting the Sidewalk Maintenance Program from our 2014 fall newsletter because our 2016 Sidewalk Improvement Program is underway. We want you to enjoy being able to take a walk through your neighborhood. However, deteriorating, misaligned sidewalks can be a threat to your safety.

In Blendon Township, like most communities across the country, the property owners are responsible for the maintenance of their sidewalks. The natural growth of healthy trees in the tree lawns (the grassy areas between the sidewalk and the street) have in some spots caused sidewalk damage from root growth. The Trustees realize that some of these trees were planted by developers when the homes were built and some were planted by homeowners. However, serious hazard conditions exist and must be addressed.

All sidewalks in the Township have been inspected to determine if any portion of the sidewalk is in need of repair or replacement. The Property Owners will be notified accordingly. Options for compliance are listed in the Sidewalk Maintenance Program (viewable at [www.blendontwp.org](http://www.blendontwp.org)). The Trustees will do everything they can to accommodate homeowners and are sensitive to their concerns. We do not want to cause a financial hardship for anyone and want you to know there are several options in which we can assist you. For now, the Township will assume the responsibility and costs for sidewalks found damaged by trees planted in the tree lawns. The Township will remove the trees in those areas and replace the damaged sidewalks. No trees will be replaced in the tree lawns, but replacement trees will be planted in various areas of the Township. Any future problems with the sidewalk will be the homeowner's responsibility.

Blendon Township has beautiful trees. While it is upsetting to have to remove some of them, everyone's safety has to be the first priority.

Hats off to our graduates!

Best wishes for all of your tomorrows!

# Drug Addiction Family Recovery



## HEROIN AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE SEMINAR

In recent years, the heroin and opiate-abuse epidemic has claimed thousands of lives in this country. Many stories have been aired on television programs like 20/20 and 60 Minutes to help provide awareness. Heroin is not confined to big cities and dark alleys any more. It has found a foothold in suburban communities across the nation. Its victims often are not hardened addicts, but teens and young adults from all walks of life. Heroin is an illegal, highly addictive, deadly drug that can be smoked, sniffed, or injected directly into the bloodstream. It can dangerously slow heart and lung functions. With every use there are lethal risks. Over half of heroin deaths are young adults. Almost every county in Ohio has seen a steady increase in the number of heroin cases over the last three years.

As we work to get in front of this epidemic, we urge you to join us later this fall at the Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road, for our next empowering and informative public meeting. The exact date will be announced in our Summer Newsletter. The seminar will cover ways to:

- **Recognize the signs and symptoms of heroin and other drug abuse.**
- **Understand the stigma and denial that surround this disease.**
- **Learn about prevention and treatment programs.**
- **Learn where to turn for help and what services are available.**
- **Learn how to put protective strategies in place now.**

Members of our group will include parents of youths who are battling drug addiction, parents of teens who lost their lives to heroin use, Fire Department Medics, Police officers, and representatives of the Attorney General's Office. This meeting will be open to parents, students, and community members. It will feature experts to answer questions and will present ways to get involved.

## Agencies Band Together to fight Drug Crisis

At a recent Franklin County meeting, law enforcement officers, treatment providers, and educators from around Central Ohio came together to learn more about the resources available to them and how narcotics investigations have changed. **HOPE** (Heroin Overdose Prevention and Education) Task Force members, FCSO Sgt. Nate Smith and Prosecutor O'Brien, gave a presentation on innovative efforts to curtail traffickers who cause harm or death to others. Overdoses are now being treated as homicides to find the source of the heroin. They are treated and investigated as crimes. Every effort is made to make a case that can be prosecuted. The **HOPE** Task Force is going after the source of the supply, which may prove more effective than just locking up the users.

Blendon Township Police and surrounding police agencies will continue working with our partners in criminal justice, public health, treatment, and education to find solutions to the growing heroin epidemic. Watch for additional information on this serious topic on our website at [www.blendontwp.org](http://www.blendontwp.org) and in our next newsletter. Please report suspicious activity immediately to the Blendon Township Police at (614) 889-9494. The following photographs show "secret" drug hiding containers that appear to be ordinary household items. Users often hide their drugs in plain sight in their homes or cars.



## IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS

One of our goals as Trustees is to improve communication with our residents. We reach out through our website, e-mail network, newsletters, and neighborhood signage. We have social media pages on Facebook and Twitter. Also, community events, workshops, and opportunities to volunteer for one of our boards, provide more options for communication with us. Your questions, comments, and concerns are always welcome.

## BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

This year's Breakfast with the Easter Bunny was our best yet! Children, parents, grandparents, and even great-grandparents enjoyed a free breakfast and a visit with the Easter Bunny. A surprise was given to each child. Following the breakfast was an egg hunt. Next year's event will be even bigger and better. We hope to see you there.



## 2016 ROAD MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Blendon's Street Paving and Repair Program provides quality management for all township roads through a rating system based on detailed statistical analysis. Our budget and seasonal time restraints are determining factors in the number of streets to be repaired annually. This year's road construction includes mill and fill, crack seal, and resurfacing. Full and partial roads to be repaired are as follows:

Balboa Place  
Bitterroot Drive  
Bluebird Court  
Blue Hen Place  
Canberra Court  
Dahlgreen Drive  
Harbin Drive  
Ingleside Drive  
Kilbourne Avenue  
Lee Road  
Marcella Drive  
Panama Drive  
Saddle Lane Court, Saddle Lane East and South  
Sandimark Place  
Sharon Avenue  
Sunbury Woods Service Road  
Sun Lawn Drive  
Valley Quail Boulevard South  
Vienna Court and Drive  
Walnut View Boulevard

To learn more, please visit [www.blendontwp.org](http://www.blendontwp.org).

## UNDERSTANDING THE ZIKA VIRUS

Zika is a virus transmitted by the bite of the *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquito, and from human to human by body fluids, or from mother to baby in the womb. Most infected people will have no symptoms. Only 20 percent of people infected with Zika will have a fever, rash, or joint pain. Zika has been linked to microcephaly in babies who contract the virus from their mothers while in the womb. The CDC is also investigating a correlation between Zika and Guillain-Barre' syndrome which is a rare disease of the nervous system.

### Should you be concerned about Zika?

Our area is listed as unsuitable to moderately suitable for the *Aedes* species which is believed to be the only mosquito capable of actively transmitting the Zika virus. So far, the human cases in the U.S. have all have been "imported" travel cases of individuals who traveled to South America, were bitten, and then returned to the United States.

### Everyone needs to fight Zika together.

Reducing breeding spots directly helps protect your family. Mosquitoes that breed in your yard generally stay near your yard. These mosquitoes lay eggs in as little as a teaspoon of water and can hatch in 3 to 4 days. **Check your yard every three days for potential breeding sites.** Toss water found in flower pots, planters, bird baths, kiddie pools, wheel barrows, etc. Remove any trash from your yard that can hold water. Check your gutters for standing water and treat your rain barrels with a larvicide from a hardware store or nursery.

Blendon Township **WILL** be spraying for mosquitoes. Our Service Department has been trained for mosquito spraying and will post signs to announce when they plan to spray.

## HERITAGE DAY FREE VINTAGE BASEBALL GAME

The Ohio Village Muffins will play the Blendon residents for a rematch at our Heritage Day Celebration on August 27th at 4:00 p.m. in Ridgewood Park. Team players for Blendon are needed!

The Ohio Village Muffins of 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. Please don't let this happen two years in a row. For more information, contact our Service Director [JGiamarco@blendontwp.org](mailto:JGiamarco@blendontwp.org) or call (614) 882-2673.

This photograph shows last year's Blendon Team. Don't they look great? Even though we didn't win, a lot of fun was had by all!





## COMMUNITY BACKYARDS IS BACK FOR THE 2016 SEASON

The GreenSpot Community Backyards program is officially underway! The program offers rebates to eligible residents for the purchase of a rain barrel, compost bin, or native plants and trees after they participate in a workshop or take an online course and quiz.

GreenSpot Community Backyards promotes the use of rain barrels and rain gardens to keep rain where it falls and use it as a resource. They also provide education on backyard conservation including composting and the use of native plants and trees in landscaping.

Visit [www.greenspotbackyards.org](http://www.greenspotbackyards.org) for complete details, including workshops dates or the online course and quiz. \*Not all participants will qualify for each rebate. Available rebates are based on residents' tax districts which are not the same as postal addresses. For questions, please call (614) 486-9613 or email Kristin Hilson, Program Coordinator, at [khilson@franklinswcd.org](mailto:khilson@franklinswcd.org)



## FUN FACTS ABOUT THE UPKEEP OF BLENDON TOWNSHIP

Here are a few fun facts about the upkeep of our beautiful community.

- Blendon Township has 1500 American Flags proudly displayed honoring our veterans in Blendon Central Cemetery. An additional 14 are in various locations throughout the township. Our Service Director John Giamarco changes the flags twice a year (before Memorial Day and Veteran's Day) with the assistance of Dave Borders, leader of Westerville Boy Scout Troop 471. All of the flags are also inspected weekly for any tears or tattering.

- Blendon Township has 1350 storm drains. Our Service Department members have to manually clean every storm drain and perform regular inspections for excess debris. Remember it is illegal to dispose of any substance (paint, oil, antifreeze, grass clippings, etc.) into the storm water drainage system. This system includes streets, ditches, catch basins, yard inlets, lakes and streams. For more information, visit [www.blendontwp.org](http://www.blendontwp.org).



This photograph shows our Service Department staff. These men work every day to help keep Blendon Township a beautiful and safe place to live!

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

### Board of Trustees Meetings

May 4th and 18th  
June 1st, 15th, and 29th  
July 13th and 27th  
August 10th and 24th  
6330 Hempstead Road, 6:30 p.m.

### FREE Memorial Day Ceremony and "Old-Fashion Picnic"

May 30th, 11:00 a.m.  
Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road  
See article in this newsletter for details.

### W.A.R.M. Blendon/Westerville Area Free Summer Lunch Club

May 31st – August 12th Monday–Friday except July 4th  
11:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
Ridgewood Park, Huber Ridge Subdivision

### 2016 Free Concert Schedule

June 11th - 23 Southbound Band  
July 16th - These Guys Live  
August 27th - The OSU Alumni Band!

Each year the Blendon Township Trustees sponsor three **FREE** concerts at Ridgewood Park located off Buenos Aires Blvd. These events feature free music, food, games, bounce houses, and much more! We are proud to announce the following bands have been booked for this year's events! Mark your calendars today.

### 2016 Annual Blendon Township Heritage Day Celebration

August 27th  
This year's Heritage Day Celebration will include the More Joy Run, the aforementioned OSU Alumni Band, the Senior's Annual Car Show, and the Vintage Baseball game. (See details below). Watch for updates! More activities are forthcoming!

### 13th Annual Senior Center Car Show

August 27th, Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.  
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Trophies awarded at 2:00 p.m.  
Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road  
Contact Donna Jordan (614) 882-1260 or [djordan@blendontwp.org](mailto:djordan@blendontwp.org)

### FREE Vintage Baseball Game

August 27th  
4:00 p.m. Ridgewood Park  
**Team Players are needed!**  
See article in this newsletter for details.

# BLENDON TOWNSHIP SPRING NEWSLETTER 2016

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

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

Jan Heichel, Vice Chairman  
JHeichel@blendontwp.org  
(614) 890-0650

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

## 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, Administrative  
Assistant/Cemetarian  
LHarter@blendontwp.org  
(614) 882-1270  
(614) 882-2215 (cemetery office)

## 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

## Road/Service Department:

John Giamarco, Service Director  
JGiamarco@blendontwp.org  
(614) 882-2673

## Senior Center:

Donna Jordan, Director  
DJordan@blendontwp.org  
(614) 882-1260

Don't miss our 2016 Heritage Day Events  
Saturday, August 27th!  
See details in this newsletter. Many more  
events will be added soon!



## 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](http://www.itsacrime.org) or (614) 871-5322, For reporting illegal dumping of paint, oil, or other solid waste into a stream, storm drain or any other body of water.