

BLENDON TOWNSHIP WINTER NEWSLETTER 2016

A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

Blendon Township voters will decide on Safety Service Levies in the primary election on March 15, 2016. The current levies for the Police and Fire/Emergency Services (EMS) produced less money than expected due to the recent recession. The drop in property values caused decreased funding for these very important services. They are aimed at maintaining a high level of service for Police and Fire/EMS. A great deal of time and effort has gone into keeping the costs as low as possible, but reports show it will cost more money for the next six years to maintain our existing level of services.

Due to State Law, the rate of these levies is reduced over time so that the revenues generated by the levy do not increase as the value of properties increase. Therefore, as the cost of delivering these services increase, the City and Township must periodically seek an increase in the approved tax levy rates to capture the inflationary value that state law otherwise prohibits. We believe these levies are necessary to maintain the level of Police and Fire/EMS services that you deserve.



Blendon Township and the City of Westerville are proposing a 2.8 mill property tax Fire levy. The Westerville Division of Fire, which provides Fire and EMS to the residents and business by contract to those of Blendon Township, is funded by a series of dedicated, voter-approved property tax levies in the City and Township. (The City of Westerville will hold its own levy for their residents).

How much am I currently paying for this service and what will this increase cost me? Currently, property owners are paying roughly \$350 per year for Fire and EMS services for every \$100,000 of home market value. If voters approve this levy request, they will pay an additional \$98 per year, or \$8.17 per month, (less than a 28 cent per day increase) for every \$100,000 of home value.

What is the 5.75 mill property tax issue that the Blendon Township Police is proposing? The Blendon Police Department provides police protection 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Police levy provides over half of the total police department's operating budget. The current expiring levy is 4.0 mills. This proposed levy would only be a 1.75 mill increase. With this levy, the annual cost to the resident based on a \$100,000 market value will only increase by \$53.60. This would bring the cost to \$360.16. This is only 98 cents per day or an increase of 15 cents per day for every \$100,000 of home value.

Passage of these levies is crucial if we expect Police and Fire/EMS services to be maintained at the present level. We thank you for giving your attention to these important issues.

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

TERRORISM THREAT TRAINING



Terrorism has become a sad and terrifying part of our lives. It is difficult to make sense of violent acts committed against innocent people. An active armed offender whose intention is to harm others is something we have heard about all too often.

The question is universal: How can we be safe?

We want you to know that your Blendon police officers have received extra training in managing armed offenders during active shootings. The entire police department took training with the Columbus SWAT Team and participated in joint training exercises with surrounding police departments. They have taken FBI training for government response to active shooters. In addition, Police Chief John

Belford is working with the Westerville Schools Safety Committee and looking at new equipment purchases. Chief Belford said his police officers will continue to receive extra training to improve their ability to recognize when negotiation is no longer an option and the steps they must take in these situations to protect the safety of others.

EMERGENCY: 9-1-1

Radio Dispatcher: (614) 889-9494

Blendon Township Police Officers are on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Non-emergency phone number (Administrative Office):
(614) 882-8500

Office hours are Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVERS (MADD) 2015 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



Congratulations to Blendon Police Officer Shawn Hensley! He was given an award by MADD for his outstanding efforts to keep impaired drivers off the road. Each year, MADD hosts a Law Enforcement Award in regional locations across our state.

This award is a way of saying "thank you," for everything our police department does to help eliminate drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime, and prevent underage drinking.

PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN OUR COMMUNITY



Each year the Rotary Club of Westerville Sunrise recognizes an outstanding person in Westerville, Blendon Township, and Genoa Township. Congratulations go to our Fiscal Officer Wade Estep for receiving the 2015 Service Above Self Award! This prestigious award is presented for faithful service to the community and significant contribution of time and effort to improve the quality of life for its citizens.

Wade has served Blendon Township for over 30 years. He is a U.S. Army veteran with a tour of duty in Vietnam, an active member of Grace Brethren Church, and has given countless volunteer hours to help others over the years.

SUPERIOR RATING FOR FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

Congratulations go to Fire Chief Brian Miller and his entire staff! Blendon/Westerville Division of Fire was upgraded to a class 2 rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO) after an evaluation this past fall. The ISO rates fire departments/districts on a 10-point scale, with class 1 being the highest possible rating and class 10 being the worst. Our Fire Division had held a class 3 rating for about two decades. We want to thank them all for their achievement of making Blendon an even safer township.



OUR SNOW WARRIORS NEED YOUR HELP

With winter upon us, we are grateful for Blendon Township's dedicated snow warriors. They work day and night during snow storms to keep our streets plowed. However, this requires your assistance too. If the snow is deep enough to require plowing, please park your cars in your driveway. Remember, when Franklin County declares a snow emergency there is NO parking allowed on the streets.

SNOW SHOVELING TIP

Have you ever shoveled your driveway and then our snow warriors plow it in? Our Service Director John Giamarco has a tip on shoveling your driveway to avoid this situation. He suggests you clear an area to the right of your driveway to give the snow on the blade of the plow a place to empty before it gets to your driveway. This way you won't have to do the same job twice.

GRANT AWARDED FOR POCKET PARK FOR 2016

We are pleased to announce that Blendon Township was awarded a grant of \$30,000 from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for the development of a pocket park. It will be in Huber Ridge at the corner of Harbin Drive and Buenos Aires Boulevard. It will replace the vacant lot left after a home was lost due to a fire. The Trustees plan to begin the project in spring. This grant will allow them to provide the residents with another comfortable park for relaxing, meeting friends, taking a lunch break, and more.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

The Trustees formed the Blendon Township Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) with the goal to advance and promote economic development for the residents and businesses of Blendon Township. It is the designated agent for development within the township. The CIC is a non-profit corporation governed by a volunteer Board which is comprised of the Township Administrator, one Township Trustee, and one township resident. Its mission is to retain, expand, and attract jobs to Blendon Township and to assist funding quality of life projects for both residents and businesses.

A residential grant program became available last year to help residents with home repairs. The photograph shows an example of how we may be able to assist you. This property suffered from severe drainage issues around the foundation of the home. As a result mold and structural damage was a risk. A new drainage system was installed to carry rain away from the home and out to the street. For more information visit www.blendontwp.org.





GIANT SENIOR CENTER GARAGE SALE

This huge sale will be held inside the Senior Center at 6330 Hempstead Road. The treasures and bargains will be plentiful! Expect to find homemade baked goods, crafts, books, linens, great food, tickets for the chance to win a beautiful quilt made by our seniors, and much more. All proceeds from these donated items will go directly to support our Senior Center. It will be open **Friday, April 1st from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Our Senior Center also offers a variety of classes, health screenings, travel opportunities, informational seminars, and more. To find out what is happening, check the Center's bi-monthly newsletter at www.blendontwp.org or stop by for a tour.

FREE EASTER EGG HUNT AND BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

On March 19th, the Blendon Seniors will again host their **FREE** Pancake Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and they have added an Easter Egg Hunt to their plans! The hunt will be divided into different age groups, making the event more enjoyable for the kids.

Who: Young children accompanied by their parents and/or grandparents are invited to a pancake breakfast with all the trimmings. Children will get to visit with the Easter Bunny and receive a special gift. Register today and be sure to bring your camera!

Age Limit: infant to 4th grade

Location: Breakfast will be served inside the Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road. The Egg Hunt will be outside, behind that Senior Center. (Weather permitting.)

Date: Saturday, March 19th

Breakfast: 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt: 11:00 a.m.

RSVP by: March 11th Reservations are required.

Contact: the Senior Center at (614) 882-1260

Admission: **FREE**, Donations appreciated

BLENDON'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION DVD

The Blendon Trustees were proud to host the year long Bicentennial celebrations of 2015. Special thanks go to the Blendon staff, sponsors, volunteers, and participants who joined in the activities.

Our autumn 2015 newsletter highlighted some of these events. We are pleased to announce that a DVD was made to show off our rich heritage and great community. It is available for viewing online on YouTube (search for Blendon Township), and on our web site

at www.blendontwp.org. The DVD is also available for \$10 (our cost to reproduce) at our Administration Office located at 6350 Hempstead Road. Checks are payable to Blendon/Westerville JEDZ Board.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Telephone calls are already coming in about the upcoming planting season. Perhaps our unusually warm November and December has brought spring fever a little early this year. Our community garden is a great way to grow fresh food and have a fun time! For your convenience, our popular community garden is adding a second compost bin and new garden tools to share. Water will continue to be 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.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Board of Trustees Meetings

6330 Hempstead Road, 6:30 p.m.

February 24th

March 9th and 23rd

April 6th and 20th

Election Day

March 15th Vote on Blendon's Safety Services Levies

Police Issue 11 Fire Issue 10

FREE Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt

March 19th See article on this page for details.

Giant Senior Center Garage Sale

April 1st and 2nd See article on this page for details.

FREE Community Shred-it Day, Tire Disposal, and Safe Medication Disposal

April 23rd, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Blendon Township Complex, 6350 Hempstead Road

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

May 30th, 11:00 a.m.

Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road

2016 Concert Schedule

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.

June 11th - 23 Southbound Band

July 16th - These Guys Live!

August 27th - OSU Alumni Band

BLENDON TOWNSHIP WINTER 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



Trustee Jan Heichel



Trustee Stew Flaherty



Trustee Jim Welch



Fiscal Officer Wade Estep

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 Public Health
(614) 525-3160

Franklin County Building Permits
(614) 525-3166

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

Rumpke Waste Removal
(800) 828-8171