



# They Rushed In

*by Rick Bannister, CEO, Neighborhood Bridges*

Westerville Police Officers Anthony Morelli and Eric Joering rushed to others not knowing what they might be facing, or who exactly might be in need, they rushed in.

With nothing but concern for the well-being of others, they rushed in.

With care and concern for each other, together, they rushed in.

Reflecting on their very final minutes on earth, we can be assured these moments were their finest because Officer's Morelli and Joering were demonstrating for our community, and for the world, the amazing capacity for love and care for others that humans are able to achieve.

They rushed in because they put others first. This is the ultimate example of giving and selflessness.

Their 50+ years of experience in protecting others provided Officers Morelli and Joering with an understanding of the troubled circumstance that they were about to face and still — they rushed in.

How lucky Westerville is to have heroes like this who walk among us and who are always thinking of the well-being of others.

Even when it means that their own well-being must come second.

It's how they rushed in.

They are heroes and examples for all of us.

It's our turn now --- and to the families of Anthony Morelli and Eric Joering, to their colleagues on the Westerville Police Department, to all of our first responders, Please know how grateful your community is for your sacrifice.

On your behalf, the Westerville community will certainly rush in with love, care, and appreciation.





 *In Memory*  
of our  
*Fallen Officers*





Officer Anthony Morelli      Officer Eric Joering



Photos: William Bixby



# BLENDON TOWNSHIP WINTER NEWSLETTER 2018



## A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

We write this newsletter with heavy hearts. We are all too aware of the contrast between the horror of the recent tragic events and the good things that continue in our Township. Our tribute to the officers is to continue to emphasize the good and perpetuate the positive.

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

## FROM THE DESK OF CHAREL BOWMAN, SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR

What do you think of when you hear the words Senior Center? Do you picture older people sitting around playing cards and eating bland meals while a television blares? Not in Blendon.

Our Senior Center is a fun vibrant place with a mix of exercise classes, line dancing, chair volleyball, yoga, crafts, discussion groups, book clubs, pot lucks, trips, events, great food, and yes even some cards! Now is a great time to learn about the Blendon Senior Center. We invite you to stop in for a tour Monday-Friday, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or call us for more information at (614) 882-1260. Annual membership fees are only \$15 for Residents and \$20 for Non-Residents. The following articles showcase a few of our additional programs/activities coming up at our Senior Center:

## SENIOR TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE

**FREE** Tax Services are offered at the Blendon Senior Center. AARP volunteers will be at the center on Thursdays beginning February 1st through April 12th. Call today (614) 882-1260 to set up an appointment. You will need to bring a photo ID, social security card, 2016 tax return and the documents pertaining to your 2017 taxes.

## THE BEAN SOUP BOOGIE!

Please join us for the Blendon Senior Center's **FREE** Ham and Bean Dinner followed by Line Dancing!

**Wednesday, March 14th**  
**4:30-6:30 p.m.**  
**6330 Hempstead Road**  
Dinner and dancing are **FREE**, donations are appreciated.

Carry out meals are available.



## FREE BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY AND EGG HUNT



**Age Limit:** infant to 4th grade  
Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Rd.  
Sat., March 24th, **Egg Hunt begins at 9:00 a.m. sharp**  
**Last years hunt was over at 9:03. Don't be late!**  
**Breakfast:** 9:03 a.m.-11:00 a.m.  
**RSVP by: March 20th, RESERVATIONS are required**  
**and can be made by calling (614) 882-1260.**  
**Admission: FREE**, donations appreciated.  
This event will be held rain or shine.

## PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST FOR THE 2019 BLENDON TOWNSHIP CALENDAR

By now you should have received your Blendon 2018 Calendar. These were mailed to all residents in December. Extra copies are available at our Administrative Office at 6350 Hempstead Road. This calendar includes beautiful photographs taken by our residents! We want to thank everyone who submitted their pictures! We would also like to invite every resident to help create the 2019 Blendon calendar. Join us by capturing images of Blendon's nature, people, family activities, and events that tell a story through your eyes of living in our township. 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 the attendees of our Heritage Day summer concert. There is no age limit for the photographer and no limit to the number of entries. Some photographs may also be chosen to be featured on Blendon's website, newsletters, and other Township publications. Submit your images all year long to [Jheichel@blendontwp.org](mailto:Jheichel@blendontwp.org).



**FROM THE DESK OF JOHN GIAMARCO,  
SERVICE DIRECTOR**

Your snow warriors need your help! With winter upon us, I am grateful for our dedicated team. They work day and night during snow storms to keep your streets plowed. However, this requires your assistance too. If the snow is deep enough to require plowing, please move your cars into your driveways. Remember, when Franklin County declares a snow emergency, there is NO parking allowed on the streets. When a snow emergency is issued, it is for ALL of Franklin County. Clearing the snow and treating the streets for ice makes traveling safer for everyone. It also helps ensure that first responders can reach all parts of Blendon Township.

Some of you have expressed it is not possible for you to park your cars off of the streets. Here are a couple of tips:

- When you see the plows in your neighborhood pull your cars into your driveway, even if it blocks the sidewalk, for the short time it takes to clear the street in front of your home. You can quickly put your cars back on the street once the plows have come through.
- Many residents flag down the plow drivers when they see them coming, and then drive around the block, allowing the plows to clear the road of snow.
- Parking is also available to you for this at the Blendon Township Complex. Thanks to everyone who has helped our snow warriors do their job!

The following photographs show how difficult it is for us to clear snow from the roads when cars have not been moved.



These photographs, taken by Todd Yarrington Studios, capture some of our snow removal tasks beginning at 3:00 a.m.



John Giamarco getting ready before heading out into the storm and Corey Fleig & Matt Newman assisting in our salt delivery.



In addition to sharing our crew at work, here are some beautiful winter shots in Blendon Township.



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

The Trustees are proud to present the following events. Watch your next newsletter or visit [www.blendontwp.org](http://www.blendontwp.org) for new events as they are added. For more information on the below activities, please see the articles within this publication.

### Board of Trustees Meetings

6330 Hempstead Road, 6:30 p.m.  
March 7th and 21st  
April 4th and Tuesday, April 17th  
May 2nd, 16th, and 30th  
June 13th, and 27th

### Senior's Bean Soup Boogie!

6330 Hempstead Road  
Wednesday, March 14th  
4:30-6:30 p.m.  
FREE Ham and Bean Dinner followed with Line Dancing  
Donations are appreciated. See article in this publication for further details.

### FREE Egg Hunt (9:00 a.m. Sharp) Followed with Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

6330 Hempstead Road.  
Egg Hunt 9:00 a.m. to approximately 9:03 a.m. 😊  
Breakfast 9:03 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Reservations required (614)882-1260  
Donations are appreciated. Please see article in this publication for further details.

### Senior's Giant Garage Sale

Blendon Senior Center 6330 Hempstead Road  
Friday, April 6th 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Saturday, April 7th 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

### Celebrate Earth Week! FREE Document Shredding, Safe Medication and Tire Disposal Day

Saturday, April 28th  
Blendon Township Complex, 6350 Hempstead Road  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### Plus FREE Dumpster Use for Your Large Scale Clean Up!

6330 Hempstead Road  
Friday, April 27th, Saturday, April 28th, & Sunday, April 29th  
Dumpsters will be set up in our Blendon Township Complex as a Free service to residents for your large scale clean ups.  
Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
\*\*see web page for acceptable and unacceptable materials/items  
Saturday, April 28th 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, April 29th 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

## FROM THE DESK OF BRIAN MILLER, FIRE CHIEF

The Westerville/Blendon Fire Division's responsibilities include fire suppression and fire prevention programs. Fire prevention through education helps reduce fire risks. Our Fire Division teaches courses to residents of all ages. They work closely with our schools, conducting fire prevention programs to 90% of all pre-school through third grade classes in Westerville/Blendon Township. They also have on-going classes for adults. For more information or a free in-home fire safety inspection, call the Fire Division at (614) 901-6600.

The photographs below, taken by Bill Bixby, show an Ice Training exercise by Westerville/Blendon Fire Medics.



## SOUND THE ALARM WORKING SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES!

Every day, seven people die in home fires in America. Most of these deaths occur in homes that lack working smoke alarms. The American Red Cross has developed a campaign called **Sound the Alarm**. It is a series of home fire safety and smoke alarm installation events across the country. Red Cross volunteers, fire departments and other partners are walking every neighborhood in the US to install free smoke alarms, replace batteries in existing alarms, and provide fire prevention and safety education.

The Red Cross and Blendon/Westerville Firefighters plan to visit every home in Blendon Township. We will keep you posted about when this will happen in our community. At the moment, Red Cross members are responding to the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, as well as everyday disasters such as home fires. We support their focus on providing relief to those affected by these events.

**If anyone in our township is interested in having a FREE smoke detector installed NOW, please call the non-emergency Fire Department number at (614)-901-6600 to schedule an appointment.**

Brian Miller, Fire Chief



# BLENDON TOWNSHIP WINTER NEWSLETTER 2018

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

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

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

Jan Heichel, Trustee  
Jheichel@blendontwp.org  
(614) 890-0650

## 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  
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:

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

## Blendon Twp. 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](mailto:Refuse@blendontwp.org)



Trustee Jan Heichel



Trustee Stew Flaherty



Trustee Jim Welch



Fiscal Officer Wade Estep

## Other Important Phone Numbers:

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](mailto:Refuse@blendontwp.org)

## SWACO

Permanent Household Hazardous Waste  
Center: 645 E. 8th Avenue Columbus, OH  
(614) 871-5100 [www.swaco.org](http://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://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](http://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.

PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS MAIL  
US POSTAGE PAID  
WESTERVILLE, OH  
PERMIT #551