A Message From The Trustees

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming township events. We thank all of you for your support and pledge to work hard each day to make this a better community for everyone.

Jan Heichel, Stew Flaherty, Jim Welch

Blendon’s Snow Warriors

We can’t thank our “Snow Warriors” enough for their commitment to doing the best job possible for our residents. It seems that this past winter, many times the snowfalls began at night or on the weekends. These devoted employees spent long hours clearing the roads as many of us stayed warm and cozy indoors. Safety is their main priority and we all appreciate them!

Pictured from left to right: Branch Wayt, Corey Fleig, John Giamarco, and Matt Newman

Township Website Under Construction

Please pardon our dust! We have been busy updating our website. Soon, you will see our new user-friendly cover page. It will include essential information like road closures, meeting or event date changes, and other important announcements. This new feature will help us communicate information easily to our residents.

MORPC Awards Blendon Township A Sustainable 2050 Community

We are proud to introduce Blendon’s newest employee, Riane Federman, as the Township Administrator’s Assistant. Riane graduated from OSU majoring in City and Regional Planning. One of her most recent endeavors for Blendon was implementing the Trustees’ vision to better educate Township employees on how to incorporate environmentally friendly practices into daily duties, events, and the community at large.

We are delighted to share the photograph below, showing Riane (third from the left) receiving an award from MORPC honoring Blendon Township with a Silver Level certification as a Sustainable 2050 community along with Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, Grove City, and Whitehall, who also received certifications.

Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM) Summer Lunch Program

June 2011 marked the first Blendon/Westerville Kids’ Free Lunch Club at Ridgewood Park. Your Trustees partnered with Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM) and Mount Carmel/St. Ann’s Hospital for this summer food program.

We are pleased to announce that this year, the Free WARM Summer Lunch Program will again be held at Ridgewood Park, just off of Buenos Aires Blvd. The program dates are June 3rd to August 9th, every weekday (except July 4th) from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. After lunch, the children will be provided with organized educational and recreational activities. The goal is to provide quality lunches to children who have a need within our community during the summer months.
Glengary Shopping Center Renovations

Exciting renovations took place at the Glengary Shopping Center last fall. Demolition of the car wash and Hollywood Movie Theater made space for a brand-new Aldi store! Refacing the other store fronts and landscaping is now in the works. If you haven't visited our new Aldi's yet, it is something that you might want to consider. Fresh produce is delivered daily and they have low prices on everything.

We continue to work closely with Aldi and the shopping center owner on this planned redevelopment. We believe the new construction will help revitalize our shopping center and the Westerville Road corridor. The photographs below show the stages of the movie theater demolition and the redevelopment.

An Update From Your Blendon/Westerville Fire Department

Your Blendon/Westerville Fire Division recently received three pet oxygen mask kits through a donation from Invisible Fence. These masks now allow our first responders to more effectively administer lifesaving oxygen to animals in an emergency.

Important Message From Franklin Soil And Water

When it comes to protecting our water resources we all need to be part of the solution. If you see someone putting anything down a storm drain or directly into any body of water or ditch, obtain a license plate number or address and report it to: It’s a Crime: (614) 871-5322, or www.itsacrime.org.

Report the release of any material that impacts public health or the environment, including chemicals and petroleum products to: Ohio EPA 24-hour hot line: (800) 282-9378.

In Franklin County, you can report any sewage-related pollution to Franklin County Public Health 24-hour hot line: (614) 525-3965, or www.itsacrime.org.

You can also contact Franklin Soil and Water about any non-emergency water pollution and they will contact the appropriate agency. You can also find information and resources on reporting storm water pollution through BeTheChangeForCleanWater.org.

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 on Monday May 27th at 11:00 a.m. at Blendon Central Cemetery (by the flag pole). Immediately following the service please join us for a FREE “old-fashioned picnic” in our Senior Center.

What a great way to celebrate all who have served with family and friends!
Breakfast With Easter Bunny And Easter Egg Hunt

Blendon Senior Center
6330 Hempstead Rd.
Sat., April 13th
Egg Hunt begins at 10:00 a.m. sharp!
Breakfast: 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Call (614) 882-1260 to RSVP by April 11th
Admission: FREE, donations appreciated
This event will be held rain or shine

New Recycling Carts Will Help Blendon Township “Recycle Right”

This spring residents of Blendon Township will be receiving an upgrade to their curbside recycling program. Beginning in late April, residents will receive new wheeled, 65-gallon recycling carts, thanks in part to a grant from SWACO (the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio) and a national nonprofit organization called The Recycling Partnership.

The new recycling carts are much easier to take to the curb, they have a lid, which reduces litter on windy days, and the larger size makes it easier for residents to recycle more material. Wheeled carts also allow for automated collection to improve the safety of collection workers and greater efficiency, both of which benefit communities as they seek competitive bids for lower-cost recycling and waste-hauling services.

Leave the materials loose in your cart – do not bag your materials. Anything that is not on the list should not be put in your recycling cart.

Social Media

Blendon Township has enhanced their presence on social media. Visit our pages below:

Facebook: @blendon.township
Instagram: @blendontownship
LinkedIn: Blendon Township
Twitter: @blendontownship

Text Alerts From Blendon Township

Sign up for TEXT ALERTS from Blendon Township. We will send alerts regarding emergency situations and meeting or event date changes. To sign up for the alerts, text zbc64674 to 313131.

Breakfast With Easter Bunny And Easter Egg Hunt

PLEASE RECYCLE THESE ITEMS

“We’re excited for the new recycling cart program. We know that it will be a change for residents, but we’re confident that residents will like their new recycling carts and it will be an improvement for the community” said Bryan Rhoads, Township Administrator.

Red recycling bins will be picked up Friday, April 26th curbside. New, free carts will be dropped off days prior.

For more information visit www.blendontownship.org or SWACO at www.recycleright.org.
Blendon Township is a family centered community. Its heritage is that of neighbors caring for neighbors. We share the joys of our community and we share the sorrows. For the past 31 years Wade Estep was not only our Fiscal Officer, but also our neighbor and friend. Wade's caring kept our Township on a very sound fiscal footing. His cautious approach to the budget made sure that all the necessary Township services were always maintained and that the taxes the residents paid were always kept as low as possible. Wade was largely responsible for our Township getting a AAA bond rating, which allowed us to do a lot of necessary infrastructure improvements without raising taxes. His untimely passing leaves a hole, not only in our government offices, but also it our hearts.

The quotes on the following page are some thoughts and observations from those who worked with Wade over the years. Yes, they are not just official newsletter information. They are personal. But that’s what Blendon Township is all about, being personal and caring.

“I enjoy [my position] and I like the grassroots government. The small township government is where it all begins.” - Wade Estep
"To say that Wade will be greatly missed is a very true statement, but it does not even begin to describe our sense of loss and heartache. Wade was one of the best. An excellent public servant, a true gentleman, and a sincerely friendly, likeable, and honorable man." – Police Chief, John Belford

"Wade was always the first one to talk OSU sports or Hunting adventures with you with a smile on his face, he loved sharing those adventures with me.” - Service Director, John Giamarco

"I've never met a man with so much love and dedication, not just to his work, but to his family and friends as well. Wade will be greatly missed, and we will make sure his time on this earth will forever be remembered.” - Township Administrator, Bryan Rhoads

"Wade thoroughly enjoyed his life in Blendon Township and the staff, and never failed to help and assist when needed. No job too small.” - Cemetery Administrator, Linda Harter

"Wade was always concerned that we never lost our small-town approach to our citizens. Each resident was important in his eyes. Wade was always ready to explore new ideas that would help the Township continue to be a good place to live.” - Trustee, Stew Flaherty

"Knowing Wade for over 30 years and working with him for 10 has left me feeling sad yet honored. It has been such a privilege working with him. He was a professional, a kind gentleman, Christian, and true friend. He will be dearly missed and never forgotten. His passing was a great loss for the community.” – Trustee, Jan Heichel

"Wade helped make my transition as a Director much easier than I ever expected it to be. He reassured me that everything would work out fine and to call if I ever needed anything. I really appreciated his help back then.” – Senior Center Director, Charel Bowman

"Wade has been the Township Fiscal Officer for 30 years and my friend for 30 years. He always greeted you with a smile and always had time for Township business discussions or to discuss hunting which we both shared the passion. He will be greatly missed and his legacy will continue.” - Code Enforcement Director, Branch Wayt
Trustees Pass Legislation Regulating Placement Of Unsolicited Written Materials

The Blendon Trustees have received numerous complaints from residents regarding the delivery method of the weekly grocery store advertisements and newspapers. Complaints have included materials being thrown at the end of driveways, in puddles, and even in the streets. Many of these are left laying where they landed leaving the streets and properties littered.

On January 15, 2019, the Trustees passed legislation regulating the placement of unsolicited written materials. The legislation prohibits the delivery of written materials by throwing items from vehicles, making it a form of littering. The papers will still be delivered, but must be delivered in one of the following ways:

- On a porch near the front door
- Securely attached to the front door
- Through a mail slot in the door, if applicable
- Between the exterior front door and interior front door
- Where permitted, in a distribution box located on or adjacent to the premises
- Securely attached to a hook or within some other receptacle used for the delivery of non-U.S. Mail packages or materials
- Handed personally to the owner, occupant and/or lessee

The new legislation places liability on the businesses behind the distribution, allowing the Township to target the source of the problem rather than the individual employees making the deliveries. There is a required time-table between the Township and businesses for education and training of their delivery employees. The resident maintains the right to restrict entry to the premises if he or she so desires. To read the entire Resolution, please visit www.blendontwp.org.

Code Enforcement

We all want our neighborhoods to be a desirable place to live, work, and play. Blendon’s Code Enforcement plays an important part in keeping our township safe and in clean condition. The Code Enforcement Department is responsible for enforcing the property maintenance codes adopted by the Trustees. They handle complaints and inquiries regarding quality of life issues and property upkeep including trash, abandoned vehicles, and building conditions. They work with residents making them aware of our Township Codes and assist them in resolving existing code violations.

For more information regarding our Code Enforcement, contact our Property Maintenance Inspector, Branch Wayt at (614) 356-9752 or bwayt@blendontwp.org.

Calendar Contest 2020

By now each household should have received their beautiful 2019 Blendon Community Calendar. Your calendar was paid for by donations and by the Joint Economic Development Zone Board. It provides you with important township information including event dates and a phone directory. All the gorgeous photographs were taken within Blendon Township by our residents and staff. We want to thank everyone who submitted pictures for this calendar.

We invite you to help create our 2020 calendar. Join us by capturing images of people, places, and events that tell a story of living in Blendon. If your photograph is chosen for our calendar, you could win prizes and be part of the Blendon Heritage Day Art Festival! Some images will also be featured on our website. You can submit your photos all year long via email to jheichel@blendontwp.org.
Important Dates To Remember

Board Of Trustees Meetings
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted)
6330 Hempstead Rd.
April 17th | May 1st, 15th, and 29th
June 12th, and 26th | Tuesday, July 9th

Memorial Day Ceremony & Free Picnic
Monday, May 27th
Blendon Central Cemetery, 6350 Hempstead Rd.
11:00 a.m. (See article in this publication for further details)

Free Breakfast with Easter Bunny & Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 13th
Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Rd.
9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Egg Hunt at 10:00 a.m. sharp!
(See poster in this publication for further details)

Pioneer Run & Pancake Fun
Saturday, May 4th
Wilder Elementary School, 6375 Goldfinch Dr.
7:30 a.m. Registration | 8:30 a.m. 5k start
Pancake Breakfast after race
(See below for further details)

More Important Dates To Remember

W.A.R.M. Westerville Area Free Lunch Program
June 3rd to August 9, weekdays 11:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Ridgewood Park, 5402 Buenos Aires Blvd.

Free Summer Concert Series in Ridgewood Park
Saturday, June 8th, Saturday, July 13th, and Saturday,
August 24th, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. 5484 Buenos Aires Blvd.

Blendon’s Heritage Day Events
Saturday, August 24th

15th Annual Car Show
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Blendon Township Complex, 6330 Hempstead Rd.

Final Summer Concert in Ridgewood Park
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Ridgewood Park, 5484 Buenos Aires Blvd.
Featuring These Guys Live back by multiple requests!

Blendon’s Photography Show & Contest
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Ridgewood Park, 5484 Buenos Aires Blvd.
During the final concert of the season, be sure to vote
for your favorite images taken by your friends and neigh-
bors living in Blendon Township.

FREE food, entertainment and much, much more!

Community Clean-Up Days
Blendon Township Complex, 6330 Hempstead Rd.

Free Dumpsters & Tire Disposal
Friday, April 26th, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 27th, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 28th, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Visit www.blendontwp.org for acceptable
and unacceptable materials/items.

Free Safe Medication Disposal
Saturday, April 27th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Please no needles, sharps, or liquids

Free & Safe Document Disposal
Saturday, April 27th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

2019 Wilder Elementary 5k

Wilder Elementary
in association with
Blendon Township

Pioneer Run & Pancake Fun 2019
Saturday May 4th
at Wilder Elementary School
7:30 a.m Race Day Registration
8:00 a.m 100m Dash
8:30 a.m 5K Start

Balloon Animals ● Raffle
Bounce House ● Pancakes

For More Information & Registration
www.runsignup.com/race/oh/
westerlville/wilderpioneerrun
BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Jan Heichel, Chairman
Jheichel@blendontwp.org
(614) 214-6786

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

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

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

Township Offices:
Linda Harter, Cemetery Administrator
LHarter@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-1270 (administrative office)
(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:

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

Other Important Phone Numbers:

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

Blendon Township Zoning
(614) 839-2013

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://myfcph.org/npdes