

BLENDON TOWNSHIP AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2015

A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

VOTE ON SAFETY SERVICE LEVIES MARCH 15, 2016

Blendon Township voters will decide on Safety Service Levies in the primary election on March 15, 2016. Both 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) 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 \$98.00 per year, or \$8.17 per month, (less than a 28 cent per day increase) for every \$100,000 of home value.

The Blendon Township Police Department is proposing a 5.75 mill property tax levy. 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 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 all of your support.

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



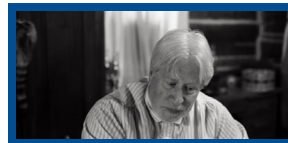
**EVERY GIFT MATTERS
GREAT TOY DROP-OFF**



Each year, the Blendon Trustees and staff like to donate to a charity for the holidays. This time it will be Nationwide Children's Hospital. A toy, game, or craft can brighten the day of a child who is in the hospital over the holiday season. Please join us by donating to **Children's Hospital Every Gift Matters Great Toy Drop-Off**. You can bring your gift to any of our Blendon offices on Hempstead Road between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, or if there is a need, we can pick them up. Please call the Administrative Office at: 614-882-1270.

The hospital asks that all gifts be new and not wrapped. They cannot accept used toys or used stuffed animals due to allergy and infection control concerns. These include toys or stuffed animals that have never been played with but have been in a home as part of a collection. For a list of what is most needed and also restricted items (no guns or weapons), please visit www.nationwidechildrens.org - giving - donation wish list - gifts to buy. Please drop off your donations by December 18th.





RIDGEWOOD PARK MEMORIAL GARDEN ENGRAVED MEMORIAL BRICKS ARE NOW AVAILABLE



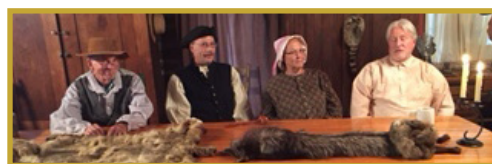
A beautiful Memorial Rose Garden has been added to Ridgewood Park in honor of Blendon resident, Jane Juergens. It is located along the water's edge of Spring Run Creek. Here in this peaceful environment we can remember Jane and all of our loved ones. Engraved memorial bricks are now available for placement 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. 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.

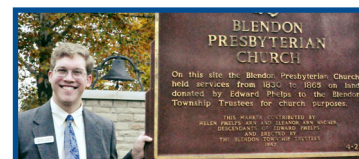
BLENDON'S BICENTENNIAL IN REVIEW 1815-2015

The Blendon Trustees were proud to host the year-long Bicentennial celebrations of 2015. Special thanks go to the Blendon staff, event sponsors, volunteers, and participants who joined in the many events. Some of the highlights include:

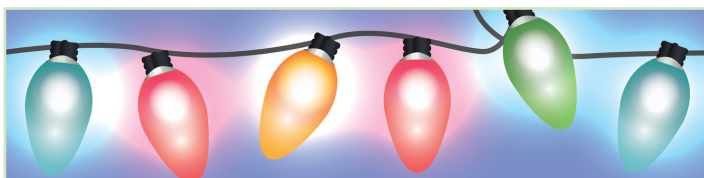
- The presentation of official Proclamations honoring Blendon Township's Bicentennial from U.S. State Senator Kevin Bacon, U.S. State Representative Anne Gonzales, and the city of Westerville Mayor Diane Fosselman. (See pictures above.)
- The Trustees and Fiscal Officer reenacted a Board of Trustees meeting from the 1800's. Recreating history was interesting and a lot of fun! The business on the docket 200 years ago included farmers' broken fences, cattle getting loose, and muddy ruts in dirt roads causing wagons to get stuck. Interestingly, some things have not changed much. Our police officers still occasionally assist with any loose livestock and we still maintain our roads and assist motorists when they have broken down. (Also, see pictures above.)



- A dedication ceremony for Phelps Acre Park brought history fans out on a rainy day. On this land, donated by Edward Phelps, church members constructed the Blendon Presbyterian Church in 1830. The Trustees have identified and marked its foundation for all to see. Central College Presbyterian Church provided us with the original church bell which proudly stands where the church once stood. Pictured below is Historian Expert Nathan Baker as he presented his very informative talk.



- What an honor it was to have a visit from Harry Phelps' granddaughter Eleanor Arn Wagner. She and her husband got a tour of Blendon Central Cemetery, where many of her ancestors rest, and Phelps Acre accompanied by Linda Harter our Administrative Assistant. The stories were plentiful and priceless! She later sent a note saying: " Thank you for our personal tour and special time that you gave us at Blendon Central Cemetery, especially Phelps Acre. The improvements contribute a living memorial in honor of my ancestors, my family, and the enjoyment for other families."



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 and be sure to bring your camera!

- Where: 6330 Hempstead Road
- Date: Sat. Dec. 5, 2015 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- RSVP by: December 3, 2015. Reservations are required. Contact our Senior Center at 882-1260
- Cost: **FREE** with reservation
- Ages: Infant to 6th grade
- Includes: Breakfast, story time with Mrs. Clause, and a visit with Santa
- Donations are welcome.

HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATION AUGUST 29, 2015



• The day began with a very successful 5K Run/Walk in memory of Blendon resident Jane Juergens. Participants jogged through the Huber Ridge subdivision escorted by our Blendon Police officers and cheered on by neighbors. Residents, friends, and family stepped up to the challenge, and went the distance in memory of this great lady.



• Our 12th annual Car Show, hosted by our Senior Center, featured many beautifully restored and classic cars. This was an afternoon of fun for the entire family.



• Blendon Township staff and residents played a game of vintage baseball against the Ohio Village Muffins of the Ohio History Connection. Shown here are Trustees Flaherty and Welch wearing period-appropriate clothing as they played by the rules of 1860. Also shown is the entire Blendon team. This was a lot of fun for all. Our Blendon team did not win. But, there will be a rematch. Baseball players, come join us and help us win next year!



• Closing our Heritage Day was a free concert by 23 Southbound, a popular country band. The great music and food in the park were a lot of fun.



Next year's Heritage Day events are currently being planned. Check your spring Newsletter for exciting updates! A special thanks goes to Blendon resident Tom Weibel for assisting us with video recording our Bicentennial events. The DVD will soon be available for view on our web page www.blendontwp.org. It will also be offered for purchase at a nominal fee.

OUR SNOW WARRIORS NEED YOUR HELP

With winter approaching, Blendon Township's Service Department staff will shift gears from their summer routines and prepare to be dedicated snow warriors. They work day and night during snow storms to keep our streets plowed. But, they require your assistance too. If the snow is deep enough to need plowing, please park your cars in your driveway. Remember, when Franklin County declares a snow emergency, NO parking is allowed on the streets.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Board of Trustees Meetings

6330 Hempstead Road, 6:30 p.m.

December 2nd, 16th, and 30th

January 13th and 27th

February 10th and 24th

March 9th and 23rd

Free Breakfast with Santa

December 5th

9:00-11:00 a.m.

Reservations can be made by calling our Senior Center at 882-1260 (See article in this newsletter.)

Every Gift Matters-Great Toy Drop-Off

December 18th

Last day to donate a gift with Blendon Township to

Nationwide Children's Hospital (See article in this newsletter.)

Election Day

March 15, 2016

Blendon Township Safety Service Levies



NO CURB-SIDE LEAF PICKUP

Blendon Township does not have curb-side leaf pickup. Residents are responsible for their own leaf removal. Please do not rake your leaves to the curb as they clog the storm sewers and create additional problems. Rumpke Services include yard waste collection. They will pick up your leaves on your scheduled trash removal day if you place them in trash containers **CLEARLY LABELED "YARD WASTE"** or bag them in paper yard waste bags (available at lawn & garden or home improvement stores.)

NO ROOM FOR RODENTS

You can help prevent your neighborhood from being attractive to rodents. It is the responsibility of all property owners to prevent conditions that provide food or shelter for rodents. Please eliminate all food sources and possible nesting places. Here are some simple steps to keep your property rodent free:

- Keep outside cooking areas and grills clean.
- Always put pet food away after use. Do not leave pet food or water bowls out overnight.
- Clean under and around bird feeders. Rodents are attracted to the fallen seeds and shells on the ground.
- Use a thick plastic or metal garbage can with a tight lid.
- Elevate woodpiles to at least one foot off the ground.
- Get rid of old trucks, cars, and tires that mice, rats, possums, squirrels or raccoons could use as homes.

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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, 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

FREE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA!
Details inside



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