



BLENDON TOWNSHIP SPRING NEWSLETTER 2020

A Message From The Trustees

The winter months are finally behind us. Our staff worked on our upcoming events over the winter to have many of our dates secured for the next several months. Soon they will be well underway. Be sure and check our activities listed in this newsletter. Also, you can find them in your Blendon 2020 calendar and our website at www.blendontwp.org. There is a lot of relevant information in this newsletter. Please be sure to look it over carefully.

*Jan Heichel, Stew Flaherty, Jim Welch, and
Fiscal Officer, Shawn Smith*

Sidewalk Maintenance Program

We are reprinting the Sidewalk Maintenance Program from our past newsletters because our 2020 Sidewalk Maintenance Program is soon to be 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, property owners are responsible for the maintenance of their sidewalks.



This spring, our sidewalk inspections will begin. Homeowners will be notified about their options to make sure their sidewalks remain in compliance with our construction codes. Options for compliance are listed in our Sidewalk Maintenance Program found on our website at www.blendontwp.org on

our Public Service page. We will do everything we can to accommodate homeowners and are sensitive to their concerns. We do not want to cause financial hardships for anyone and encourage you to view the options as mentioned above.



Blendon Township's
**Free Pancake
Flipping Breakfast
with the
Easter Bunny
&
Easter Egg Hunt**

Blendon Township Senior Center
6330 S Hempstead Road

Saturday
April 4th

Breakfast 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Egg Hunt 10 a.m. sharp

Reservations Required
Call 614-882-1260




Memorial Day Celebration

On Memorial Day, we remember those who gave their lives to protect and preserve freedom for our country. Each year, the Trustees hold a Remembrance Service at the 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 on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25th, at 11:00 a.m. We will be meeting at the flagpole in the Blendon Central Cemetery. Immediately following the service, please join us for a FREE "old-fashioned picnic" in the Blendon Senior Center. What a great way to celebrate all who have served with family and friends!



Westerville Area Resource Ministry (W.A.R.M) Summer Lunch Club Program

Westerville Area Kids Lunch Club



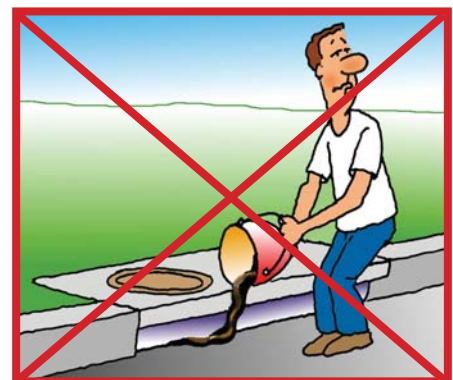
June 2011 marked the first Blendon/Westerville Kids' Free Lunch Club at Ridgewood Park. The Trustees partnered with W.A.R.M and Mt. Carmen/St. Ann's Hospital for this superb summer food program.

We are pleased to announce that this year, their Free Summer Lunch Program will be coming back again to Ridgewood Park. The program dates are June 1st to August 7th weekdays. (except for July 4th) No registration fees or forms to complete. Just come as you are and join the fun!

Stormwater News

It is illegal to dispose of, dump, or drain any substance except stormwater into the storm drainage system. This system includes streets, ditches, catch basins, yard inlets, lakes, and streams. Do not pour paint into or change oil/antifreeze near any storm drainage structure. Do not blow grass clippings into the street as this will also clog storm drains.

We are committed to keeping the environment clean and reducing water pollution. If you see unlawful disposals, please email our Township Service Director, John Giamarco, at Jgiamarco@blendontwp.org, or email Code Enforcement, Branch Wayt, at bwayt@blendontwp.org.

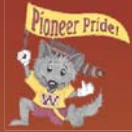




Wilder Elementary

in association with

Blendon Township



Presents



Pioneer Run & Pancake Fun 2020

Saturday May 2nd
at Wilder Elementary School

7:30 am Race Day Registration

8:00 am 100m Dash

8:30 am 5K Start

**Balloon Animals • Raffle
Bounce House • Pancakes**

For More Information & Registration

www.runsignup.com/race/oh/westerville/wilderpioneerrun

Lieutenant Dusty Lephart Awarded the Blendon Township Police Department Medal of Valor and Police Purple Heart

During the month of October in 2018, Blendon Township Officers were dispatched to a residence in Huber Ridge on a report of a despondent male subject, possibly threatening suicide.

Upon arrival and entry through an unlocked door, LT Lephart, Detective Retherford and Officer Cromwell found the subject lying on a bed in an upstairs bedroom. A woman ran from the room shouting that the male subject had a gun. As LT Lephart squeezed by the woman into the small room he observed that the subject was holding a cocked revolver to his own head with his finger on the trigger. Without hesitation and without regard for his own safety, LT Lephart leaped into action, diving for the revolver and wrestling with the subject for control of the firearm. During the struggle LT Lephart kept the muzzle of the revolver pointed away from the others in the room, and even protected the distraught male subject from pointing the gun at himself. LT Lephart gained control of the revolver in a violent struggle that left both the Lieutenant and the subject with significant shoulder injuries. Both the Lieutenant and the subject were transported in separate Fire Department Emergency Medical Service units to separate hospitals. Officers and Detectives responding to the scene discovered that the .357 magnum revolver that the subject wielded was loaded with six live rounds of ammunition.



Lieutenant Lephart's brave actions almost assuredly saved the life of the subject and quite possibly saved the lives of everyone in the room. His heroism was deserving of the Police Medal of Valor and his subsequent injuries merited the award of the Police Purple Heart. On February 5th 2020, the Blendon Township Board of Trustees authorized both awards and they were presented to Lieutenant Lephart at the Township Meeting with his friends and family in attendance.

John C. Belford, Chief of Police
Blendon Township Police Department
6340 Hempstead Road
Westerville, Ohio 43081
614.882.8500
jbelford@blendontwp.org

Text Alerts From Blendon Township

Stay informed through Blendon Townships **FREE TEXT ALERTS**. We send alerts for emergency situations and meeting/event date changes. To sign up for the alerts, text zbc64674 to 313131. Your registration information will never be sold or shared.

Follow Us!



@blendon.township



@blendontownship



@blendontownship



Blendon Township

A Message from Fire Chief Brian Miller

This past February and early March, Blendon had three home fires, and Westerville had one. Thankfully, everyone was able to get out safely! We are also happy to acknowledge that all four homes had working smoke detectors.

Half of all home heating fires occur during the early months of the year. If you are using a space heater, make sure you maintain a three-foot clearance around it and never leave it unattended. Water heaters come with a metal plate covering the flame. We have seen some of these plates missing, which can quickly start fires. Follow the same three-foot clearance rule-keeping all items safely away.

Did you know that we offer FREE smoke detectors and installation to all residents in Blendon and Westerville? All you need to do is call (614) 901-6600 or visit www.westerville.org/fire. Please see the poster below. This program does not expire. **"You Call We'll Install!"**

FREE SMOKE DETECTOR INSPECTION AND INSTALLATION
in partnership with the American Red Cross

YOU CALL WE'LL INSTALL!

Nothing is more important than the safety of you and your family. That's why the Westerville Division of Fire has partnered with the American Red Cross to offer free smoke detector installations for Westerville and Blendon Township families.

If you need a smoke detector, call us today. There is no charge, and a WFD team member will install a brand new detector in your home.

Remember: Smoke detectors older than 10 years old are outdated. Replace or call today!

(614) 901-6600
www.westerville.org/fire

WESTERVILLE
Station 11
400 W. Main Street
Station 12
727 E. Schrock Road
Station 13
355 N. Spring Road
Emergency
9-1-1
Non-emergency
(614) 901-6600

Calendar Contest 2021

Last fall, we mailed all residents the 2020 Blendon Calendar. All of the gorgeous photographs were taken within Blendon by our residents and staff. We want to thank everyone who submitted pictures for this calendar.

We invite you to help create our 2021 calendar. Join us by capturing images of people, places, and events that tell a story of living in Blendon. If your photograph(s) are selected for our calendar, you could win prizes and be part of Blendon's Heritage Art Show. We will also feature some images on our website.

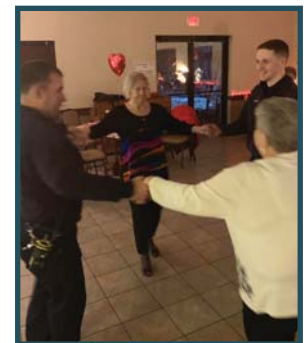
Submit your photos and address all year long via email to jheichel@blendontwp.org.

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 and eating bland meals while the 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, potlucks, trips, great food, and yes, even some cards! Now is an excellent 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. and 4:00 p.m. You also can call for more information at (614) 882-1260. Annual membership fees are only \$20 for residents and \$25 for non-residents.

The photos below are from our Valentine's Day Dance. The Blendon/Westerville Firefighters surprised everyone by showing up and danced the night away with all of those that attended.



You Count!

Census 2020 Due - April 1



The Census Bureau is bound by Title 13 of the U.S. Code to keep your information confidential.

Under Title 13, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about you, your home or your business, even to law enforcement agencies. The law ensures that your private data is protected and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court.

The answers you provide are used only to produce statistics. You are kept anonymous: The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or anyone else in your home.

In mid-March, households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail.

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You will have three options for responding:



Online



By Phone



By Mail



In Person

Beginning in mid-May, census takers will visit all households that have not yet responded by one of the first three avenues.

FOR YOUR SAFETY:

The Census Bureau will never ask for:

- Your Social Security number.
- Your bank account or credit card numbers.
- Money or donations.

In addition, the Census Bureau will not contact you on behalf of a political party.

If someone visits your home to collect a response:

- Check to make sure that they have a valid ID badge, with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date.

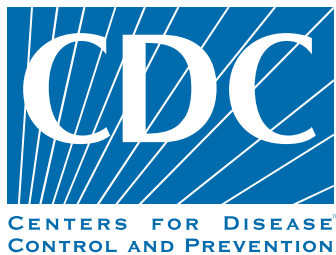
If you still have questions about their identity, you can call (800) 923-8282 to speak with a local Census Bureau representative.

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

DID YOU KNOW?

- Census data reflects how many people actually live in Ohio so that the state is best represented in Congress.
- Ohio's legislature and District's representation is directly affected by Census data.
- Allocation of funds directly associated with the Census count include: School Lunch/Breakfast Programs, Special Education Grants, Crime Victim Assistance, Special Programs for the Aging, Vocational Rehabilitations Grants, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Medical Assistance Programs and much more.
- For every person NOT counted in the Census, Ohio loses federal funding of at least \$1,200 per person, per year for 10 years.
- Ohio received more than \$33.5M through 55 federal spending programs guided by data derived from the 2010 Census.



Prevention Tips to Help You Avoid the New Coronavirus

There is currently no vaccine to prevent infection. The best way to do so is to avoid exposure to this virus. The CDC recommends the following every day preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:

- *Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.*
- *Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.*
- *Avoid close contact with people who are sick.*
- *Stay home when you are sick.*
- *Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.*
- *Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.*

For daily updated news on the COVID19 virus, please visit www.cdc.gov.



Important Dates To Remember

Board of Trustee Meetings

6330 Hempstead Road, 6:30 p.m.

April 1st, 15th, and 29th | May 13th and 27th

June 10th and 24th | July 8th and 22nd

Free Pancake Flipping Breakfast with the Easter Bunny & Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4th

Breakfast 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Egg Hunt 10:00 a.m. **sharp!**

(see poster in this publication for further details)

Community Clean-Up Days

Blendon Complex, 6330 Hempstead Road

Free Dumpsters & Tire Disposal

Friday, April 24th, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 25th, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 26th, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please visit www.blendontwp.org for acceptable and unacceptable materials/items.

Free Safe Medication Disposal

Saturday, April 25th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please no needles, sharps, or liquids

Wilder Elementary School Pioneer Run & Pancake Fun

Saturday, May 2nd

7:30 a.m. Race Day Registration

8:00 a.m. 100m Dash

8:30 a.m. 5K Start

(see poster in this publication for further details)

Senior's Giant Garage Sale

Friday, May 8th, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 9th, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Along with items collected all year for this sale, you will see a bake sale and lunch!

Memorial Day Celebration

Monday, May 25, 11:00 a.m.

Free "Old-Fashion Picnic" following the ceremony in our Senior Center

W.A.R.M.

Monday-Friday, June 1st to August 7th

(see article in this publication for further details)

Free Summer Concerts

Ridgewood Park from 6pm-8pm

Saturday, June 13th

Saturday, July 18th

Saturday, August 15th

Blendon Heritage Day Events

Saturday, August 15th

16th Annual Car Show

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Blendon Township Complex, 6330 Hempstead Rd.

Final Summer Concert

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Kids Fun: 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Free food, entertainment, and much, much, more!
Ridgewood Park, 5484 Buenos Aires Blvd.

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 neighbors living in Blendon Township.



BLENDON TOWNSHIP SPRING NEWSLETTER 2020

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

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

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

Jan Heichel, Trustee
JHeichel@blendontwp.org
(614) 214-6786

Fiscal Officer, Shawn Smith
SSmith@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-1270

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

Blendon Township Office
(614) 882-1270 (admin)
(614) 423-6836 (zoning)

Cemetery Administrator
Linda Harter
LHarter@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-2215

Road/Service Department:
John Giamarco, Service Director
JGiamarco@blendontwp.org

Senior Center:
Charel Bowman, Director
CBowman@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-1260

Blendon Twp. Code Enforcement:
Branch Wayt, Property Maintenance Inspector
BWayt@blendontwp.org

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

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

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

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>

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
COLUMBUS, OH
PERMIT #8160



Trustee Jan Heichel



Trustee Stew Flaherty



Trustee Jim Welch



Fiscal Officer
Shawn Smith