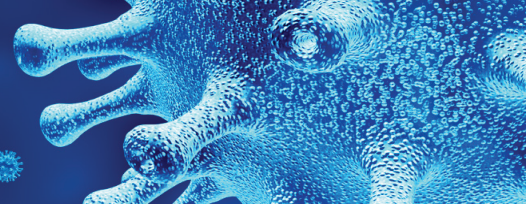


# COVID-19

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE



## BLENDON TOWNSHIP SPECIAL EDITION COVID-19 PANDEMIC NEWSLETTER — AUTUMN 2020

### A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

It has been over six months since the COVID-19 pandemic found its way into our state and local community. We are taking extraordinary measures to protect our residents during this COVID-19 pandemic while continuing to provide the services you deserve.

We all were asked to transition to a new normal quickly. Our everyday routines continue to focus on handwashing, social distancing, and wearing face masks. As we have learned how our lives needed to adjust, those could have been the safest habits we have embraced.

Our residents have reached out to help one another as we navigate through these challenging times. We see this, and we thank you. You are what makes Blendon the great community that it is, people helping people! The Coronavirus is here, and you are responding with care, kindness, and concern for one another. It is this that will make our community even stronger.

Together, we will get through this. Please continue to reach out to your Trustees and staff for any assistance you may need. Also, please continue to check on your neighbors and, lastly, stay healthy and safe.

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



### WHERE WE STAND WITH COVID-19 TODAY

Blendon follows best practices to keep you safe from COVID-19. We follow all directives from the Ohio Department of Health, the Franklin County Department of Health, and the Governor's Office. We have adopted all the recommended protocols. Please visit [www.blendontwp.org](http://www.blendontwp.org) for updates.

**Board of Trustee Meetings:** At this time, all Trustee meetings are via Zoom/audio teleconference. Residents are welcome to join in by dialing 1-646-558-8656, Meeting ID: 538 584 773. The meeting dates are on our website calendar.

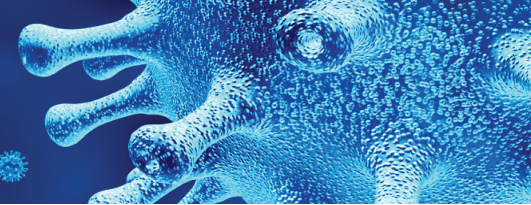
**Police Routine Response:** Residents should continue to call our non-emergency radio dispatcher (614-889-9494) for police reports and non-emergency situations. If you call the dispatcher for a non-emergency problem, expect a phone call from one of our officers to take the information by phone, if possible. You can also file a police report for non-serious incidents on-line at [www.blendontwp.org](http://www.blendontwp.org). The police station is open for walk-in service during regular office hours, Monday – Friday 8 am – 4:30 pm. Police Officers will continue to be on duty and patrol 24/7.

**Service/Road Department and Code Enforcement:** We have closed business offices to the general public. No walk-ins are permitted—otherwise, business is conducted as usual. Our Service Director, John Giamarco, can be reached via email at [jgiamarco@blendontwp.org](mailto:jgiamarco@blendontwp.org), and our Code Enforcement Officer, Branch Wayt, can be contacted at [bwayt@blendontwp.org](mailto:bwayt@blendontwp.org).

**Senior Center, Administrative & Cemetery Office:** Our staff is conducting business by appointment, telephone, email, and on-line, no walk-ins. For questions, please call the Senior Center office at (614-882-1260) or our Administrative office at (614-882-1270.) For cemetery questions, please contact Linda Harter at [Lharter@blendontwp.org](mailto:Lharter@blendontwp.org) or (614-882-2215).

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## BLENDON TOWNSHIP CARES HOUSING AND UTILITY RELIEF PROGRAM

In May, Governor Mike DeWine announced that Ohio was awarded CARE'S Funding for local governments that did not receive direct distributions under the CARE'S Act. Your Trustees requested this aid for Blendon Township residents.

We are pleased to announce COVID-19 Relief Funds have been awarded and are specifically for late rent or mortgage, late Water/Sewer, Rumpke, Columbia Gas, and AEP utilities. This program is for assistance to Blendon Township families financially impacted by COVID-19.

The COVID-19 Relief Aid will pay up to three months past-due mortgage or rent and Water/Sewage, Rumpke, Columbia Gas, and AEP utility payments with a maximum of \$1,500 per household. Applicants must provide supporting documentation that their Water/Sewage, Rumpke, Columbia Gas, and AEP utilities and rent/mortgage payments are late due to a COVID-19 related incident starting in March of 2020.

Federal Funding can only be awarded if applicants show supporting documentation beginning March 2020 that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a family's financial burden. The funds are limited and will be issued on a first-come, first-serve basis.

### How to Apply:

- Navigate to the Township website: [www.blendontwp.org](http://www.blendontwp.org)
- Go to the Resident Tab and choose COVID-19 Financial Assistance
- Fill out the survey

### Documents to upload:

- Proof of loss of income due to COVID-19. A signed unemployment letter or layoff letter from your employer listing the last date of employment and reason for the loss of income
- Mortgage statements or rent notices beginning March 2020 showing late or missed payments, due to COVID-19 loss of wages, including a signed letter from your landlord and your landlord's complete mailing address
- Statements starting March 2020 from Water/Sewer, Rumpke, Columbia Gas, and AEP showing late or missed payments due to COVID-19 loss of wages

**It is imperative to attach all required supporting documentation listed above. Due to the government's short timeline for this COVID-19 Relief Aid and the volume of our current submissions, we will not email second and third documentation requests. This government program ends on December 1, 2020, or when the funds run out, whichever comes first.**

We encourage you to email us at [covid@blendontwp.org](mailto:covid@blendontwp.org) with any questions before submitting your application.

This COVID-19 Relief Aid is specific to only a few of many areas that may have impacted you. Below is a shortlist of many listed on the internet with opportunities and options available to assist.

[www.covid-19.myfcph.org](http://www.covid-19.myfcph.org)

[www.warmwesterville.org](http://www.warmwesterville.org)

[www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program](http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program)

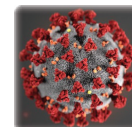
[www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov)

[www.ohiohome.org/renters.aspx](http://www.ohiohome.org/renters.aspx)

[www.benefits.ohio.gov](http://www.benefits.ohio.gov)



## PREVENTION TIPS TO HELP YOU AVOID THE CORONAVIRUS



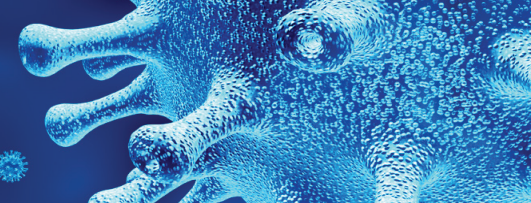
There is currently no vaccine to prevent infection. The best way to do so is to avoid exposure to this virus. The CDC recommends the following every day preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:

- *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](http://www.cdc.gov).

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## BLENDON SENIOR CENTER

All Ohio Senior Centers were closed on March 23, 2020, due to the Coronavirus. The goal is to be safe and protect one of the most vulnerable groups of individuals and help fight this disease's spread. We believe this practice has been successful and has saved lives; however, we still need to remain vigilant and follow all precautionary measures laid out by the government and health authorities to combat this potentially deadly virus.

Governor DeWine has given us the green light to reopen on or after September 21 with several safety modifications to put into place. With those required changes, we found many challenges in reopening our Senior Center now. A partial list includes regular testing for COVID-19 of all staff and volunteers. Frequent random testing on participants and "strategic testing" has been recommended for visitors but has not yet been defined. We need more time and training to get the testing set up and a clear definition of the "strategic testing" of visitors. Our Director, Charel Bowman, her assistant, Amy Rose, and others in the office are available to answer phone calls and provide assistance to you.

Based on the current requirements and guidelines, which must be satisfied to reopen, it has been decided that it is necessary to wait. This decision was not an easy one to make. Thank you for your patience.

## WHERE ARE PEOPLE CATCHING COVID?

Karen Warren, Healthgrades.com

Data on the spreading of the Coronavirus pandemic continues to accumulate, with a more accurate finding of what is taking place today. The most current data shows that transmission primarily occurs from person to person when they are close to each other. These are the top places and activities that increase the risk of catching COVID-19.

**Household** One of the primary sources of COVID-19 transmission is in the home. After all, you are in constant contact with other family members, often sharing the same bathrooms and the kitchen, and touching many of the same surfaces, such as the TV remote, doorknobs, faucets, and the refrigerator door.

**Locations with Shared Breathing** Another hot spot for high risk includes heavy breathing spaces such as clubs, gyms, and church services. The CDC noted one particular COVID-19 event at a church choir practice that

led to 32 confirmed cases and 20 probable secondary cases. The report states COVID-19 was likely facilitated by close proximity during their singing practice, which releases a large number of coronavirus particles. Lack of sufficient social distancing added to the high infection rate.

**Crowds** The CDC continues to recommend that gatherings be limited to a low number of groups where they can socially distance at least 6 feet apart from one another. Numerous COVID-19 cases were traced back to vacationers to Myrtle Beach, which was labeled a 'hot spot' during the summer. Other popular beaches suffered the same fate because visitors failed to socially distance, wear masks, and follow CDC guidelines for handwashing.

**Poorly Ventilated Indoor Spaces** Whether it is an office, restaurant, or other indoor space, air ventilation plays a role in helping curb the spreading of COVID-19. While proper ventilation with outside air alone is not enough to protect us, the EPA says it can help reduce airborne contaminants' including viruses. As capacity in the space increases, ventilation also should increase, something not all facilities are able to accomplish. If you cannot socially distance, and there is low ventilation in an indoor space, the COVID-19 risk is more significant.

**Nursing Homes and Hospitals** Nursing homes were a primary location for outbreaks. Most facilities did not have a good infection control program in place before the start of the pandemic. The situation is much better now, but the rate of cases within nursing homes increases when community cases rise.

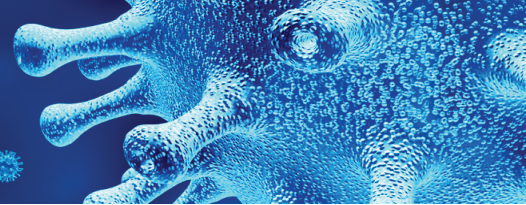
## HALLOWEEN PARTY AT RIDGEWOOD PARK

Blendon Township and the Huber Ridge Area Association's combined Annual Halloween Party is cancelled due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. It was another sad but necessary decision made during this unprecedented environment.



# COVID-19

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## SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER — AUTUMN 2020

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Stew Flaherty, Chairman  
[SFlaherty@blendontwp.org](mailto:SFlaherty@blendontwp.org)  
(614) 882-1270

Jim Welch, Vice Chairman  
[Jim.Welch@blendontwp.org](mailto:Jim.Welch@blendontwp.org)  
(614) 306-8080

Jan Heichel, Trustee  
[JHeichel@blendontwp.org](mailto:JHeichel@blendontwp.org)  
(614) 214-6786

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

**Administrator:**  
Bryan Rhoads  
[Bryan.Rhoads@blendontwp.org](mailto: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](mailto:LHarter@blendontwp.org)  
(614) 882-2215

**Road/Service Department:**  
John Giamarco, Service Director  
[JGiamarco@blendontwp.org](mailto:JGiamarco@blendontwp.org)

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

**Blendon Twp. Code Enforcement:**  
Branch Wayt, Property Maintenance Inspector  
[BWayt@blendontwp.org](mailto:BWayt@blendontwp.org)

**Police Department:**  
John Belford, Police Chief  
[JBelford@blendontwp.org](mailto:JBelford@blendontwp.org)  
**Emergency 911**  
Dispatcher (614) 889-9494  
Office (614) 882-8500

**Fire Department:**  
Brian Miller, Fire Chief  
[Brian.Miller@westerville.org](mailto: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](mailto:Refuse@blendontwp.org)

**Franklin County Building Permits**  
(614) 525-3166

**Central OH Environmental Crimes Task Force**  
(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.

### 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](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://myfcp.org/npdes>

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Trustee Jan Heichel



Trustee Stew Flaherty



Trustee Jim Welch



Fiscal Officer  
Shawn Smith