

BLENDON TOWNSHIP WINTER NEWSLETTER 2024

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TRUSTEES

We hope this message finds you well as we move into the new year. In this newsletter, we are pleased to introduce you to our new Township Administrator, Mr. Patrick Myers. Pat brings a wealth of government and administrative experience and is excited to contribute significantly to the well-being of Blendon Township. Pat is passionate about advocating for the residents and employees of Blendon Township; he also aims to improve communication within the township. Learn more about Pat in additional articles in this publication.

Also, we introduce your newly elected Trustee, DeLena Ciamacco. See the article to the right for more about DeLena.

Trustee Cathy Shinaberry has actively researched ADA-compliant play equipment for our parks, thanks to an excellent suggestion from one of our residents. She is also looking at exercise equipment to possibly add to our parks. We greatly appreciate your feedback as we aim to enhance our community spaces for everyone's enjoyment.

In a similar matter, Trustee Jan Heichel is exploring ADA Grants and other grant opportunities that will significantly benefit Blendon Township. Jan, Cathy, and DeLena are also independently researching any additional free services that come available for all areas of our township and residents.

Joann Bury, our Fiscal Officer, has secured victory in her bid for election, granting her another four years to guide us. Joann has been a strong leader and oversees all fiscal matters of the township. Her continued service is a testament to her commitment to Blendon Township.

We look forward to seeing you at the various activities we have planned throughout the year. As always, we extend our appreciation for your continued support.



MEET YOUR NEW TRUSTEE, DELENA CIAMACCO

DeLena was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, and is the daughter of Italian immigrants. She has been a Blendon Township resident for nearly 25 years. Her educational journey led her through Columbus Public Schools and The Ohio State University, where she spent five years studying International Business, International Marketing, and Criminology/Sociology. In 1989, DeLena turned from her initial path of attending Law School to pursue a thriving career in Real Estate. Some interesting facts about DeLena include:

- She is the owner of The Friesian Empire Event Center, located in Blendon Township. It is set to open in 2024.
- She is a former hobbyist pilot, flying single engine airplanes.
- She is an author of three Real Estate books.

DeLena's three primary goals for the early part of this year are improvement of communication between the Trustees and the residents, the enhancement of administrative efficiency, and pursuing collaborative efforts to address water bills for our Aqua customer residents. Additionally, she is committed to ensuring code compliance and advancing police training for the safety and well-being of our community members.

DeLena's love for Blendon Township is evident in her commitment to our community. Her joy comes from serving and assisting others, and she looks forward to using her various experiences to contribute to the betterment of the Blendon Township residents.



INSIDE THIS EDITION:

A Message from your "Snow Warriors"
"From the Desk" Staff Updates
Important Reminders and Dates
And more!

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MEET THE NEW TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR, PAT MYERS

Employee Spotlight



Pat has been a part-time elected official for almost 16 years in local government, so he brings quite a bit of experience from a similar job. He

lived in Blendon Township near Dempsey Road for part of his childhood. He has already observed that our residents are passionate about the area and that both residents and employees have diverse backgrounds and needs, and he is ready for the challenge! His daily job goal is to advocate for the residents and employees of Blendon Township; one of his specific goals is to help improve communication within the township.

Some little-known things about Pat are that he used to play guitar and sing in a bluegrass band and he plays Foosball at a professional level! In addition to playing Foosball, he likes to exercise and spend time with his wife, son & daughter-in-law, and 4-year-old goldendoodle.

The Township Senior Center employees and members have already embraced him, and he loves visiting with the seniors. His favorite sports team is The Ohio State Buckeyes, and his favorite movie is The Godfather. If he could have a superpower, he would time travel to re-live time with relatives and friends.

Pat considers himself to be loyal, determined, and honest, and strives to always keep his word and do what he says he will do. In addition to his administrative abilities, these character qualities and his commitment to the township will certainly keep our township a desirable place to live!

HAVE YOU JOINED BLENDON TOWNSHIPS NEW EMAIL NOTIFICATION SYSTEM?

It is easier now more than ever to stay informed about Blendon Township happenings. We're thrilled to introduce our new registration feature for Township news, notifications, and other updates – all delivered to your inbox. The list and your information will not be sold, given, or shared with anyone.

For your convenience, you can sign up in two ways:

- Scan the QR Code below
- Visit www.blendontwp.org > Contact Us > Register for Blendon Township Email Notifications



Stay connected with Blendon Township and be the first to know about the latest updates in our community.



Wilder Elementary School Back Path
Photo by: Landon Bailey

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COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We invite residents ages 18 and over to actively participate by applying for open positions on various Committees. These voluntary positions play a crucial role in shaping and enhancing our community.

If you are interested, we encourage you to learn more and apply at www.blendontwp.org > Contact Us > Volunteer Opportunities. It is important to note that the time commitment required for these committees is minimal. We believe that your involvement can make a positive impact on the decisions that shape our community. Don't miss this opportunity to contribute to Blendon Township's growth and well-being.

Currently, we have openings on the following Board and Committees:

Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA):

The Board of Zoning Appeals is responsible for hearing and deciding on zoning variances such as setback encroachments and reviewing temporary use permits, including those for sales trailers. Additionally, the Board handles the hearing and disposition of appeals arising from any order or decision made by the township officer enforcing the zoning ordinance.

Zoning Commission:

The Zoning Commission hears applicants for land use and zoning classifications, recommends legislative actions, and reviews legislation, rules, and regulations.

Park Advisory Committee:

The Park Advisory Committee serves as an advisory body to the Blendon Township Board of Trustees regarding matters concerning the development, planning, and use of the parks within and owned by the township.

OUR SNOW WARRIORS NEED YOUR HELP

Our dedicated "Snow Warriors" face the challenges of snowstorms to ensure the safety and accessibility of our community. Their tireless efforts, however, can only be effective with the cooperation of each resident. In the event of a snow emergency, it is crucial that everyone plays their part in our snow removal process.

When snow accumulates to a level requiring plowing, we kindly request residents to park their cars in their driveways. By adhering to parking restrictions during snow emergencies, you not only support the efforts of our Snow Warriors but also play a crucial role in maintaining the accessibility and safety of our streets.



FREE BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY & EGG HUNT

Location: Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Rd.

Date: Saturday, March 23rd

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

The Egg Hunt begins at 10:00 a.m.

Reservations are not necessary but are appreciated.

Call (614) 882-1260 to RSVP by March 20th.

Admission: FREE; donations appreciated.

This event will be held rain or shine.



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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

The Trustees are proud to present the following events. Watch your next newsletter or visit www.blendontwp.org for new events as they are added.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS

6330 Hempstead Rd, 6:30 p.m.
(Wednesday's unless otherwise noted)
February 13 (Tuesday)
March 13th & 27th
April 10th & 24th
May 8th & 22nd

FREE BREAKFAST WITH EASTER BUNNY & EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 23rd, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Blendon Township Senior Center
Reservations (not required but appreciated):
614-882-1260

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAYS

Blendon Complex, 6330 Hempstead Road
Free Dumpster use, Tire Disposal, &
Electronics Drop Off
Friday, April 19th, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 20th, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 21st, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Please visit www.blendontwp.org for acceptable and unacceptable materials/items.

FREE DOCUMENT SHREDDING DAY

Blendon Complex, 6330 South Hempstead Road
Saturday, April 20th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Documents are shredded on-site.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY & PICNIC

Monday, May 27th
Ceremony held in Cemetery at 11:00 a.m.
Free picnic to follow at Blendon Township Senior Center.

BLENDON BLOOMS CONTEST

Begins on April 15th.
Visit www.blendontwp.org > Residents > Events & Calendar
> Blendon Blooms

CONCERT IN THE PARK

Saturday, June 15th, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Band: Stop, Drop, and Roll

Saturday, July 13th, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Band: Marquis 66

Saturday, August 24th, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Band: Street Players

JOIN FORCES TO ADDRESS AQUA WATER BILLS

Trustee Ciamacco is leading the charge to address a matter that has been a persistent concern and hardship for many— the consistently high Aqua Ohio water bills for the Sunbury Woods and Huber Area residents.

“Over the past decade, as a Blendon Township resident, I’ve heard about the challenges many of you have faced with these bills. As a Blendon Trustee, I am committed to seeing if our hands are tied or if there is a solution. I have recently received information from residents highlighting how our area’s water costs far exceed those in other Central Ohio regions.”

Trustee Ciamacco is dedicated to digging deep into this matter. Trustees Heichel and Shinaberry are concerned about this also, but we need your assistance, too. There’s strength in numbers; we must work together if we want a fighting chance. DeLena will work diligently to reach the right people and schedule a meeting to discuss and address the challenges.

If you are experiencing high water bills, please write or email DeLena describing your experiences, complaints, and how the escalating water costs create a hardship for you. Please include copies of your water bills; those will be very helpful.

Let’s come together to make a positive impact on our high Aqua water bills. Please mail your letters to DeLena Ciamacco at 6350 Hempstead Rd., Westerville, OH 43081, or email to dciamacco@blendontwp.org. DeLena believes by collecting these letters, our community’s collective voice will bring attention to this issue. We appreciate your support, and let’s make positive change happen together!

Code Enforcement

We are happy to announce an update that directly addresses a recurring request from the residents in our community—the appointment of a Code Enforcement/ Zoning Compliance Officer. Your Trustees hired Mr. Adam Sears during the Board of Trustees meeting on January 31, 2024.

Blendon’s Code Enforcement is complaint-based on the following categories: Health and Safety, Property Values, and Beautification.

While safety is at the forefront of our Code Enforcement Officer’s responsibilities, Adam will address compliance with all township codes and zoning regulations for a safer and well-maintained community.

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FROM THE DESK OF JOHN GIAMARCO, SERVICE DIRECTOR

I want to share some important information with you about the Blendon Service Department and how we work to maintain the safety and well-being of your community. Did you know our Service Department is available around the clock, 24/7? We are here not just for snow and ice emergencies, but also for any road blockages or safety concerns you may have. Our responsibilities include maintaining all of the parks, buildings, and roadways owned by the township.

Roadway Concerns: We have many overlapping areas in the township that could be maintained by Blendon, Westerville, Columbus, ODOT, or the Franklin County Engineer. It can be a bit confusing, so if you have a roadway concern, reach out to me by phone or email. I can submit a work order to the proper authority.

Trash Service Update: Every 3-5 years, we bid out our trash service to secure the best rates for our residents through the Central Ohio Trash Consortium. We collaborate with 10 cities and townships to ensure the best possible rate. One interesting fact: as part of the bid process, none of our residents pay for recycling or yard waste pickup – you're only billed for solid waste (trash removal) from your home. Remember, it's a service provided by an external business; it's not owned by the township. Any missed pickups should be directed to Rumpke at 888-786-7531.

Need Assistance? If you have any concerns or need help, don't hesitate to contact me at 614-882-2673 or email me at jgiamarco@blendontwp.org. We are here to help and resolve any issues you may encounter. Thank you for being a part of our community, and let's work together to make Blendon Township an even better place.



2023 BLENDON BLOOMS CONTEST WINNERS

We want to thank everyone who participated in the 2023 Blendon Blooms contest! The Trustees appreciate everyone's dedication to make Blendon Township beautiful.

Congratulations to our 2023 winners:

Best Container Garden:

Kat Bethwaite

Best Perennial Landscape:

Russel & Ellen Allen

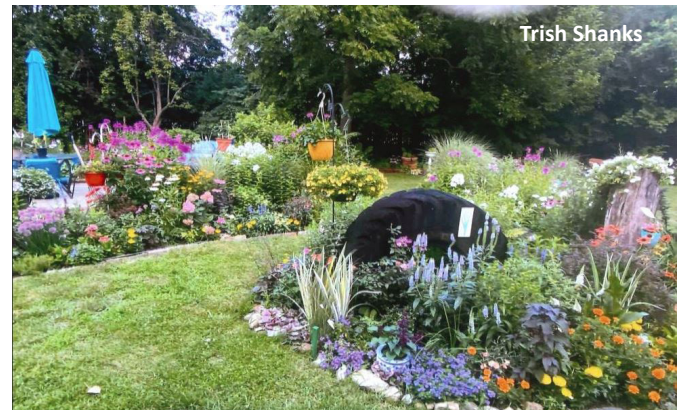
Best Flowering Garden:

Linda Ruh

Best Overall Landscape: (Tie)

Trish Shanks

Kat Bethwaite



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Trustees:

Jan Heichel, Chair

Jheichel@blendontwp.org
(614) 813-6315

Cathy Shinaberry, Vice-Chair

CShinaberry@blendontwp.org
(614) 813-0100

DeLena Ciamacco, Trustee

DCiamacco@blendontwp.org
(614) 813-4879

Fiscal Officer:

Joann Bury

JBury@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-1270

Administrator:

Pat Myers

pmyers@blendontwp.org
(614) 839-2013

Service Director:

John Giamarco

6350 S. Hempstead Rd. 43081
JGiamarco@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-2673

Code Enforcement & Zoning Department

(614) 839-2013

Administrative Assistant & Cemetery Office:

6350 S. Hempstead Rd. 43081
contactus@blendontwp.org
cemetery@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-1270/(614) 882-2215

Police Department:

John Belford, Police Chief

6340 S. Hempstead Rd. 43081
JBelford@blendontwp.org
Emergency 911/Dispatcher
(614) 889-9494
Office (614) 882-8500

Senior Center:

Charel Bowman, Director

6330 S. Hempstead Rd. 43081
CBowman@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-1260

Fire Department:

Brian Miller, Fire Chief

Brian.Miller@westerville.org
Emergency 911
Office (614) 901-6600



Jan Heichel, Trustee



Cathy Shinaberry, Trustee



DeLena Ciamacco, Trustee



Joann Bury, Fiscal Officer

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE PAID
COLUMBUS, OH
PERMIT #8160

Other Important Phone Numbers:

American Electric Power

(800) 277-2177

Aqua Ohio Inc.

(877) 987-2782 or (614) 882-6586

Columbia Gas Company

(800) 344-4077 customer service/emergency
(including gas odor emergency)

Del Co Water

(740) 548-7746
delcowater.org

Environmental Crimes Task Force of Central OH

(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.

Franklin County Building Permits

(614) 525-3166

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

Rumpke Waste Removal

(800) 828-8171 or (888) 786-7531
Email service concerns to: Refuse@blendontwp.org

SWACO

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