



BLENDON TOWNSHIP SPRING NEWSLETTER 2014

A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

The winter months are finally behind us and our spring projects are well underway. There are many new events coming up that we are excited to share with you. We believe that Blendon Township is a great place to live and we welcome your comments and ideas. By working together, we will continue to create a community of excellence! Our pledge is to work hard each and every day to make this a better community for everyone.

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

YOUR BLENDON POLICE DEPARTMENT

The officers of our police department are committed to working in partnership with the community to ensure that they are effectively addressing crime at every level. They know that citizen involvement is a vital component to their success. Never hesitate to report suspicious incidents to the police department. The department is staffed with a Chief, a Lieutenant, 2 Sergeants, 2 Detectives, 6 Patrol officers, and several part-time Reserve officers. These officers patrol the streets of Blendon Township, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Police Department also provides many other services to the community including:

- **FREE** Ident-A-Kid Kits
- Franklin County Sexual Offender Database
- Vacation House Watch Request
- Bicycle Registration
- Information to request the speed trailer on your street
- Place to file a Police Report Online

To learn more about these please visit: www.blendontwp.org.

**SAFE MEDICATION DISPOSAL, DOCUMENT SHREDDING,
TIRE & UNWANTED ELECTRONICS DISPOSAL**

We can help you with your spring cleaning! Back by popular demand, the Trustees are providing another **FREE** on-site document shredding and tire disposal drop off day. This is a great way to dispose of all of your unneeded sensitive paper documents and unwanted tires at one location.

We will also take your old computers, TV's and other electronics to be safely recycled and/or processed in accordance with state law.

As a **NEW** service, you can now drop off unwanted medications. The Blendon Police Department will be collecting them for safe disposal. Help keep our kids safe by preventing accidental poisoning and decreasing drug use while keeping our waterways clean.

You CAN Bring: Prescription and over-the-counter medications, ointments, sprays, inhalers, creams, vials and pet medications. Please keep medication in the original package or bottle. You **CAN** cross off your name and address, but **DO NOT** cover up or remove the name of the medicine.

You CANNOT Bring: Illegal drugs, needles/sharps, biohazard material (anything containing a bodily fluid or blood), personal care products (shampoo, soaps, lotions, sunscreens, etc.), household hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, oil, gas).

This **FREE** drop off day will be **Saturday, May 10th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the Blendon Complex, 6330 Hempstead Road.



ISSUE #19

BLENDON TOWNSHIP POLICE RENEWAL LEVY

The Trustees have placed a 5-year renewal levy of 2.5 mills plus an additional 2.0 mills (for a total tax of 4.5 mills) on the upcoming May 6th ballot. This levy represents over 40% of the total police department's operating budget. Passage of this levy is crucial for police services to be maintained at their present levels. Costs are rising for the police department as they are for all of us. The additional 2.0 mills are needed to cover the cost of our present levels of service.

With the levy renewal, the annual cost to the resident, based on a \$100,000 valuation will be \$137.81. That is only 38 cents per day.



GRANTS AWARDED FOR 2014

The decision to move our Development Director Bryan Rhoads into a Township Administrator position has proven to be a wise one. His responsibilities are many and include the coordination, implementation and execution of the policies for your elected officials. Bryan has assisted the Trustees in locating additional sources of revenue by researching grant money for investment into our community.

We are pleased to announce that the Phelps Acre Grant was awarded to Blendon Township in the amount of \$85,124! This is a Nature Works grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Plans are in process to develop Phelps Acre (located on the corners of Dempsey and Hempstead Roads) into a park and showcase its historical significance.

Another exciting accomplishment is a grant awarded from the Ohio Public Works Commission for \$431,346! It is for our 2014 road resurfacing program. The total project will cost \$664,346. Blendon Township will contribute the remaining \$233,000. A complete list of roads to be resurfaced will be posted on our website later this year.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Our popular community garden program is back. In 2011, your Trustees developed a community garden, located behind the Blendon Township Complex on Hempstead Road. The response was outstanding and the garden plots filled quickly. Last year we expanded the garden to nearly double its original size and added additional water sources for your convenience.

We are already preparing for the up-coming planting season. It is a great way to grow some fresh food and have a fun time! You can register at the Administration Office at 6330 Hempstead Road during our regular office hours - Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or by contacting our Administrative Assistant, Linda Harter at 882-1270.

MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

On Memorial Day we remember those who have died serving our country. Each year, the Trustees hold a Remembrance Service at Blendon Central Cemetery. It is our privilege to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, and remember what they fought and died for. We invite you to join us this Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, at 11:00 a.m. at the flag pole in the Blendon Central Cemetery. Immediately following the service please join us for a **FREE** "good old-fashion picnic" in the Blendon Senior Center. What a great way to celebrate all who have served with family and friends!

LITTER PREVENTION

Are you interested in organizing a rewarding litter cleanup project? Now is a great time to get involved. Supplies are provided by the township. All it takes is just one person, one school, one business, or one organization to positively impact the behavior of others in the community.

Litter cleanup costs American taxpayers nearly \$11.5 billion every year. It decreases property values up to 7%. It contaminates our environment and encourages others to litter. Be part of the solution and make our township more beautiful. For more information, please contact our Township Administrator Bryan.Rhoads@www.blendontwp.com.

BLENDON TOWNSHIP SENIOR CENTER

Our Senior Center is conveniently located within the Blendon Township Complex at 6330 Hempstead Road. The Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It offers many programs and services designed for today's seniors. Anyone age 55 years or older is eligible to join. Spouses of members can also participate in activities. Annual membership fees are \$15.00 per person for township residents.

Free transportation is one of the many services offered to Senior Center members who are Blendon Township Residents. This includes transportation to and from appointments to see doctors, dentists, beauticians, tax specialists, or even to the grocery. If you are a senior or have a senior neighbor who would benefit from this service, please consider joining the Senior Center. The Center's friendly staff are here to serve our senior population, to help them remain independent in their homes, and to try to make their lives better and more enjoyable.

The Senior Center also offers a variety of classes, health and wellness screenings, travel opportunities, informational seminars and much more. To find out what's happening each day check the Center's bi-monthly newsletter on our web site www.blendontwp.org. or stop by for a tour.

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Join the Blendon Township Seniors for their new Special Event, **Breakfast with the Easter Bunny!** Young children accompanied by their parents and/or grandparents are invited to a pancake breakfast with sausage and all the trimmings. Children will get to visit with the Easter Bunny and receive a special gift to celebrate the day. Register today and be sure to bring your camera!

- Location: Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road
- Date: Saturday, April 12, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
- RSVP by: April 7, 2014 **Reservations are required**
- Contact the Senior Center at 882-1260**
- Admission: **FREE**, Donations accepted & appreciated
- Age Limit: 0 to 4th grade
- Includes: Breakfast, Cookie Decorating, Coloring Contest, Candy and Easter Egg



BLENDON CENTRAL CEMETERY RULES & REGULATIONS



Thank you to everyone who helps to keep the cemetery grave sites beautiful and safe. New regulations were adopted this year regarding proper use of the cemetery. The revised rules have been developed to insure safety for both the public and for cemetery employees.

These rules are subject to change when deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees, with or without prior notice to lot owners. Please be sure to inquire before planting, decorating, or altering a lot in any way. Failure to do so could result in your items being removed by our cemetery personnel. A complete list of current cemetery rules is available at our Administrative Office located at 6350 Hempstead Road, on our website, or by contacting the township office at (614)882-2215.

Our cemetery offers reduced pricing for Blendon Township residents. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the cemetery office at (614)882-2215. The office is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

TRUSTEES AND AQUA OHIO WILL JOIN FORCES TO PROVIDE TIPS TO DECREASE WATER USE

Residents should be on the lookout for an informational package designed to help identify water leaks and ways to use water more wisely. The majority of excess water usage investigations uncover silent water leaks that go unnoticed. These leaks are more common than most people think. The package will have information about identifying common silent leaks, maintaining your home water system, and strategies to use water more efficiently both inside and out.

The project is expected to be completed later this spring and information will be shared with residents by mail and on our website at www.blendontwp.org.

JANE JUERGENS MEMORIAL

Jane Juergens, a Blendon Township resident, lost her life as a victim of crime while jogging in Ridgewood Park this past October. We are deeply saddened by this tragic event and extend our deepest sympathies to the family.

A memorial dedicated to Jane will be placed in Ridgewood Park, which will include planting a rose garden. The township Trustees and department leaders walked through the woods to locate the perfect area. A lovely spot just off of the trail, facing the natural beauty of the stream, was chosen.

MORE LOCAL CONTROL OF GROUP HOMES NEEDED

Jordan T. Stewart, a 16 year old group home resident was charged with a delinquency count of murder in Jane's death. Group homes are typically designed to house foster teens, including those with developmental disabilities or mental illness. Currently, these homes are licensed by the state and they are not subject to any local control. The Blendon Township Trustees have vowed to lead the charge and fight for change.

They believe communities should have a say about where the homes are located, how they are monitored, and that staff members are properly trained. They also think there should be recourse available when homes become a danger to the community. Be assured the Trustees are continuing to meet with state representatives to push for laws that would give local communities some control over where and how group homes operate. They believe action must take place to make our community a safer place.

WESTERVILLE AREA KID'S FREE LUNCH CLUB



The Trustees have partnered with the Westerville Area Resource Ministry (W.A.R.M.) again for the **FREE** Summer Lunch Program at the Ridgewood Park shelter house at 5402 Buenos Aires Blvd.

Beginning May 27, 2014 through August 9th (Mon. thru Fri. except for July 4th), lunch is served from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Meals are on a first-come, first-served basis for children ages 1 through 18. After lunch, volunteers conduct sports and educational activities until 2:00 p.m. If you know of a family who would benefit from this program, please invite them to stop by the park and join in. There is no pre-registration or forms to complete. Everyone is welcome.

On Fridays, each child will receive enough food for six full meals to take home for the weekend. This extra "Backpack for Kids" program was developed by Governor John Kasich. Last year over 10,000 meals were distributed to Westerville area children. Additionally, one day per week, the Mid-Ohio Food Bank will return with their Produce Market Food Truck. This also is free. The Food bank truck brings hundreds of pounds of fresh produce. The fresh food is then distributed to our neighbors in need.



Governor John Kasich visiting children at the lunch program.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR ZONING DEPARTMENT

Since the last elections, Blendon Township has begun the transition of handling zoning issues that before had been handled by Franklin County. The Township recognizes the need to educate our residents about the zoning codes as well as the property maintenance codes. Both of the codes have been posted on the Township website www.blendontwp.org and we encourage everyone to review them. The below listed codes are of particular importance, as they are the most frequent complaints received by the Township. It is the goal of the Township to educate and assist residents concerning zoning and property maintenance codes to ensure better quality of life and higher property values.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODES (enacted by the Trustees 2009)

- 302.1 Sanitation-All exterior property and premises shall be maintained in a clean, safe, and sanitary condition.
- 302.2 Sidewalks and Driveways- All shall be kept in a proper state of repair and maintained free from hazardous conditions.
- 302.4 Weeds- Grass—shall not exceed 8”-noxious weeds prohibited
- 302.8 Motor Vehicles- No inoperative or unlicensed motor vehicle shall be kept on the exterior of the property.
- 304.3 Premises Identification- The address shall be Arabic numbers or alphabet letters at least 4” high, secured to the face of the residence and visible from the road.
- 308.1 Accumulation of rubbish or garbage- All exterior property and premises shall be free from any accumulation of rubbish or garbage.

ZONING CODES (approved by voters 2013)

- Some improvements made to your property may require zoning approval and/or a permit. Please check with the zoning department during the planning stages of your home improvement project as to the requirements and to receive a certificate of zoning compliance.
- 501.01 Fences- No fence or wall between a street and a principal structure shall be more than three and a half (3 ½) feet (42inches) in height. Elsewhere, no fence shall exceed six (6) feet in height.
 - 531.01 Off-street parking space required- parking motor vehicles, trailers, and recreational vehicles in the yards (grass) of a residential dwelling is prohibited. All vehicles must be parked on an approved parking space –concrete or asphalt.
 - .531.051 Commercial vehicles- No commercial vehicles or trailers may be parked stored or kept on residential properties.
 - 531.052 Recreational vehicles- Boats, boat trailers, camping trailers or other trailers used for household related and non-commercial activities. On residential lots less than 2 acres a recreational vehicle shall not exceed twenty-two (22) feet in length and limited to one (1) unit.
 - 551.028 Trash- The storage of trash or waste materials, must be in approved containers and stored out of sight, except trash that is properly placed at an assigned location for regular scheduled trash pickup.

As we anxiously await the arrival of spring, please take a few moments to review the codes that could directly impact your property and neighborhood. Together we can improve the quality of life for all those who call “Blendon Township” home.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BLENDON/WESTERVILLE FIRE DIVISION

Anytime the forecast calls for rain, there is a possibility of a flood. Just because you haven't experienced a flood in the past, doesn't mean you won't in the future. A flood is generally considered a temporary condition. However, it can have long lasting and devastating effects. Flood risk isn't only based on history, but it's also based on factors such as rainfall, flows of rivers and creeks, flood-control measures and changes due to building & development. Storms from far reaching hurricanes, overtopped or breached levees, outdated or clogged drainage systems and rapid accumulations of rain can further complicate flood conditions. **To become more resilient to the effects of flooding, FEMA recommends that you do the following:**

1. Safeguard your possessions by creating a personal flood file. This file should contain information about all your possessions and be kept in a secure place such as a safe deposit box or waterproof container.
 - Make copies of your insurance policies with your agents contact information.
 - Create an list of all major household items and valuables, including items stored in basements, attics or garages.
 - Make copies of all other critical documents, including finance records or receipts of major purchases.
 - Review your current home-owners insurance policy and become familiar with what is and is not covered, as damage due to flooding is typically not covered.
 - Call your insurance agent to purchase flood insurance for your home (and business) and its contents.
2. Prepare your house.
 - If you have a basement, inspect your sump pump to ensure that it is in working condition. Consider installing a battery-operated backup in case of a power failure. The installation of a water alarm will also alert you of water accumulating in your basement.
 - Clean out the debris from your gutters and downspouts to direct water away from your house.
 - Move furniture, valuables, and important documents to a safe place, like an upper floor.
3. Develop a family emergency plan.
 - •Create safety kits with drinking water, canned food, manual can opener, first aid supplies, blankets, battery operated radios and flashlights.
 - •Post emergency telephone numbers by the phone and teach your children how to dial 911.
 - Create a list of all of your medical information including medicines and allergies.
 - Plan and practice a flood evacuation route with your family. Know safe routes from home, work, and school that are on higher ground.
 - Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to be your emergency family contact.
 - Have a plan to protect your pets including food, leashes, collars and I.D.

For more information on emergency preparation, contact the Westerville Division of Fire (614) 901-6600. *Information for this article was gathered from the FEMA.gov and Ready.gov websites.



BLENDON'S CONCERTS IN THE PARK 2014

There will be music in the air again this summer for **FREE** concerts at Ridgewood Park. We invite you to come and enjoy live entertainment, hot dogs and chips. There will be two bounce houses for the children, cotton candy and more! Everything is free and family-friendly!

June 14th Kicking off the Concert Series, we are bringing in The OSU Alumni Band! This active band consists of over 50 members, including Drum Majors. They have an incredible song list with variety to please all ages. At the end of their performance, the audience will be invited to march a Script Ohio ending with an honorary "dotting of the I".

July 19th These Guys Live, have been invited back for the second year. Come experience the thrill of this classic rock and roll concert. They will rock the evening away with songs by great artists like Journey, Bon Jovi, Sammy Hagar and more.

August 23rd Returning again by request is Kelly Goodrich and The Rhythm Kings! Kelly and his wife live on the beautiful Royal Caribbean cruise ship, Majesty of the Seas, where he performs six nights a week. What a treat for us that Kelly has chosen to visit Blendon Township when he is not at sea.

FREE RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

How would you like to be able to provide your plants and gardens with mineral rich rainwater while reducing the cost of your household water consumption by up to 40%? We have invited Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation to conduct another **FREE** rain barrel workshop. This informative presentation will demonstrate how rain barrels are great for conservation and prevent flooding and pollution downstream.

Each participant will have the opportunity to purchase a 45 gallon, terracotta colored rain barrel for home use for \$55.00. Come join us and learn how these barrels can be a cost effective way to manage and use your rain water.

The workshop will be held on Saturday, May 31st in our Senior Center, conveniently located at 6330 Hempstead Road, Westerville. Spaces are limited. **To register visit www.franklinswcd.org**



SNOW WARRIORS IN ACTION

Blendon's Service Department has a long history of keeping our roads clear of snow and ice. Moving cars off of the street during a snow emergency is a must. Did you know they will help residents who are unable to clear their cars themselves, by shoveling them free? Below shows our Service Department guys caught in the act.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Board of Trustees Meetings

6330 Hempstead Road, 6:30 p.m.

April 9th and 23rd

May 7th and 21st

June 4th and 18th

FREE Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

6330 Hempstead Road

Saturday, April 12th

8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Reservations required by 04/07/2014

call: (614) 882-1260



Election Day

May 6th



Blendon Township Police Levy

FREE Document Shredding, Tire Disposal, Unwanted Electronics, & Safe Medication Disposal Drop Off Day

6330 Hempstead Road

Saturday, May 10th

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Memorial Day Celebration

6330 Hempstead Road

Monday, May 26th 11:00 a.m.

FREE Concerts in the Park Series 2014

Ridgewood Park

5402 Buenos Aires Blvd.

June 14th, July 19th, August 23rd

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Rain Barrel Workshop

6330 Hempstead Road

Saturday, May 31st 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m..

To register visit www.franklinswcd.org



BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Jan Heichel, Chairman
JHeichel@blendontwp.org
(614) 890-0650

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

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

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 9-1-1
Dispatcher (614) 889-9494
Records (614) 882-8500

Fire Department:

Bernie Ingles, Fire Chief
Emergency 9-1-1
or (614) 882-2213

Road/Service Department:

John Giamarco, Service Director
JGiamarco@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-2673

Senior Center:

Donna Jordan, Director
DJordan@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-1260

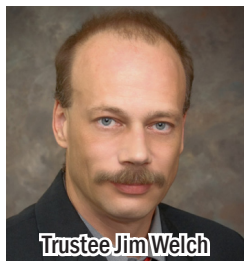
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BLENDON TOWNSHIP
POLICE RENEWAL LEVY
VOTE TUESDAY, MAY 6TH



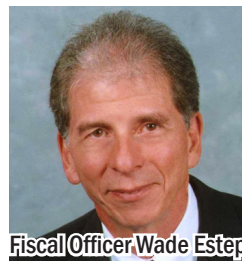
Trustee Jan Heichel



Trustee Stew Flaherty



Trustee Jim Welch



Fiscal Officer Wade Estep

American Electric Power
(800) 277-2177

Columbia Gas Company
(800) 344-4077 for customer service/
emergency and gas odor

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

Franklin County Zoning
(614) 525-3094

Aqua Ohio Water Company
(877) 987-2782 or
(614) 882-6586

Rumpke Waste Removal
(800) 828-8171