



BLENDON TOWNSHIP SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2014



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TRUSTEES

We want to express our thanks to our dedicated staff, business leaders and residents for all their hard work, support and commitment to make Blendon Township a better place to live. These efforts will continue to foster positive changes within the community. As always, we appreciate your support and we welcome your suggestions and comments.

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

TRUSTEES WELCOME NEW BUSINESS

The Trustees attended the grand opening ceremony for the new Dollar Tree store located in the Sunbury Road Plaza next to Kroger's. They are excited to bring another business to Blendon Township for its employment opportunities and to add a popular new store for shoppers.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

ROAD RESURFACING PROGRAM

The Blendon Resurfacing Program for 2014 will include all or parts of the following streets:

Arnett Road	Fox Run Court & Road
Carthage Court	Batavia Road
Bader Court & Road	Dakar Road
Bangasi Road	Hunt Club Road
Montford Road North & South	Vickers Drive
Makassar Drive	Bitterroot Drive

SENIOR CENTER CAR SHOW

Join us for the 11th annual Blendon Senior Center Car Show. Our seniors are hosting their popular event featuring many beautifully restored and classic cars. This promises to be an afternoon of fun for the entire family. Included are trophies, dash plaques, door prizes, food and a DJ playing popular tunes from the 50's!

Saturday, August 23rd, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

6330 S. Hempstead Road Registration 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Judging at 2:30 p.m. For registration contact Donna Jordan at

DJordan@blendontwp.org or (614) 882-1260.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



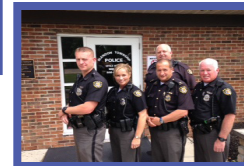
On behalf of the Officers and Staff of the Blendon Township Police Department I want to express our sincere gratitude to the voters for their support of our police levy. We know that every tax increase is a big, big deal.

Our pledge to our residents is to continue to provide the absolute best police service that we can, and at the lowest possible cost. We will continue to build upon the good relationships that already exist with our neighborhoods, schools, and business community, and work to make those relationships even stronger. Thank you for your continued support toward a safer, better Blendon Township.

John C. Belford, Chief of Police

JBelford@blendontwp.org

Office (614) 882-8500 • Cell (614)314-4714



HOUSE NUMBERS CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

In an emergency, could the Fire, EMS, or Police Department FIND YOUR HOME? Time is a very important survival factor in an emergency. It is crucial that your house numbers are clearly marked. As a service to residents, the Trustees have hired a company to paint house numbers on the curb. The painting began in May and will be completed this summer.

For those of you without curbs, the Blendon Police Dept. has reflective house numbers for purchase. They are made of a vinyl material with a reflective black background and reflective white numbers. For our rural areas, we have reflective signs with a green background and white numbers. Both are available in either horizontal or vertical layout with pre-drilled holes for mounting. We are offering these at \$6.00. Our cost is \$12.00, but we are taking off \$6.00 which is what we are paying for each curb painting. Reflective house numbers make finding your home much faster, especially at night. To order yours, contact Branch Wayt at BWWayt@blendontwp.org.

Our Zoning Code requires all dwellings to have house numbers prominently displayed. Please make sure your house numbers are easily seen from the street. Remember, if you are easy to find, emergency personnel can reach you faster.



Memorial Day 21 Gun Salute & Placing of the Wreath

OSU Alumni Band & Bounce House Fun at the June Concert in Ridgewood Park

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Frequently our residents inquire about volunteer positions in the community. Blendon Township has many opportunities for you to become involved. We are seeking residents interested in the events and advisory boards for the following areas:

- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Parks Advisory Board
- Zoning Commission
- Community Clean Up Events
- Roadside Clean Up Events

To volunteer for any of the above, please contact our Township Administrator by emailing Bryan.Rhoads@blendontwp.org. Additional opportunities may become available throughout the year.

THERE IS MUSIC IN THE AIR!

Our **FREE** Concerts in the Park series is back by popular demand! We began this season with The OSU Alumni Band on June 14th. Having the OSU Alumni Band play was a unique experience. Their concert performance included both past and present drum majors. Those attending were delighted with fantastic twirling and high baton tosses. The air was filled with popular tunes such as Rock Around the Clock, Stars and Stripes Forever, and the Armed Forces Medley. They closed the show by performing a script Ohio with the honorary "dotting of the I" by Blendon Township resident, Andrew Love (shown below).



These Guys Live were back for the second year in our July concert. Everyone experienced the thrill of this classic rock and roll band. They played popular songs by great artists like Journey, Bon Jovi, Sammy Hagar and more.

Don't miss our final concert for this season on August 23rd. All the way from the Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, Kelly Goodrich and the Rhythm Kings will be giving a return performance while getting a chance to rest their "sea legs".

Beginning at 6:00 p.m., this evening of fun for the entire family includes two bounce houses, free food, cotton candy and more! Remember to bring your lawn chairs and/or blankets to enjoy the show. Special thanks go to the Huber Ridge Area Association for their assistance.

HEROIN: A DANGEROUS EPIDEMIC

Traditionally considered a problem confined to big cities, desperate people, and dark alleys, heroin has found a new foothold in suburban communities across the nation. Its victims are not hardened addicts, but teens and young adults from all walks of life.

Many young people are turning to heroin now that prescription drugs have become more difficult to obtain. Physicians have decreased the number of prescriptions written for pain medications to reduce them from being used illegally. They had become the second most used substance by teens after marijuana.

Heroin is an illegal, highly addictive, dangerous drug that can be smoked, sniffed or injected directly into the bloodstream. It can dangerously slow heart and lung functions. With every use there are deadly risks. Over half of heroin deaths are young adults. Heroin and other drug addictions are a growing national epidemic. The number of heroin cases has steadily increased in almost every county in Ohio in the past three years.

The Blendon Township Police are committed to fighting the spread of any illegal drugs and drug related crimes. They are providing community education to increase awareness among our residents and will provide support for anyone in need.

HEROIN INFORMATION SEMINAR

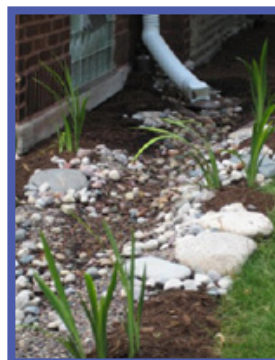
Police Chief John Belford along with Jennifer Biddinger of the Ohio Attorney General's Office held their first Community Awareness discussion last month in Blendon Township and are planning a repeat of this event in October. Look for this date in your next newsletter. Please join us for this very empowering and informative meeting. Speakers will include parents of youths who are battling drug addiction and parents of teens who have lost their lives from Heroin use.

BLENDON'S SUMMER MARKET



Our summer market is here! From June 12th through October 16th, the market will be a blend of Ohio grown produce, books, crafts, jewelry, body oils, and household goods. Open Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., it is located in the fields behind the Blendon Township Complex at 6350 Hempstead Road. Come enjoy the benefits of fresh produce, and a broad range of goods while supporting our local economy.

THE VALUE OF A RAIN GARDEN



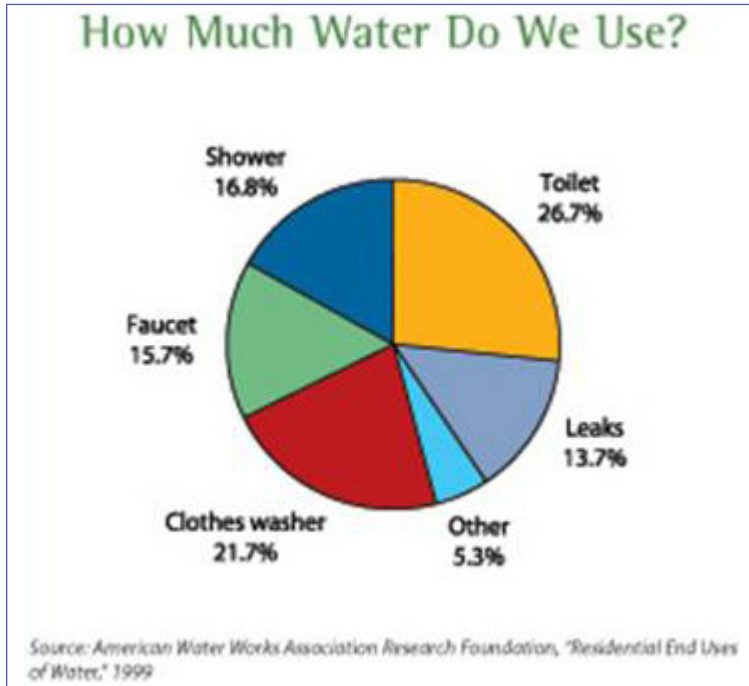
A rain garden is a shallow depression that is planted with deep-rooted native plants and grasses. They are placed near a runoff source like a downspout or driveway to capture rainwater runoff. Rain gardens are sustainable, beautiful and help reduce storm water pollution. They do not require technical experience to install and can be completed easily without heavy equipment. Information on how to build your own rain garden can be found online. You can also see a rain garden display at Kurtz Brothers Nursery, located in Blendon Township on Westerville Road.

To see a complete list of our Blendon Summer Market vendors visit www.blendontwp.org



CONSERVING WATER CAN HELP YOU SAVE MONEY

Is your water bill high? Although it seems that fresh water is abundant, actually it is not. Conserving this precious resource also can save you money on your monthly bill.



The Blendon Township Trustees want to help you conserve water and lower your monthly usage costs. A few small adjustments around your home can make a big difference, saving hundreds of gallons of water every month.

As you can see from the chart above, the highest usage of water is from toilets. On average, Americans flush their toilets five times per person per day. Water usage depends on the age of the toilet. A 1960's model can range from 3.5 to 4 gallons per flush. Current models can use as low as .8 gallons per flush. For a family of four, this can save up to 4,800 gallons a year. Remember that those of us who are paying for water and sewer are billed by the gallon.

The average clothes washer with an agitator uses 40 to 55 gallons of water per load. Energy Star washers use less than 27 gallons per load. At an average of six loads of laundry per week, you would save approximately 400 gallons of water in a month.

Showers provide the third highest consumption of water according to the EPA. Depending on when your home was built, you could be using 4 gallons per minute. A new low flow shower head can average 2 gallons per minute. In a 10-minute shower, you can use 40 gallons with an old model versus 20 with a low flow replacement.

Older bath and kitchen faucets can use up to 4 gallons per minute. New faucets feature a 1.5 gallon per minute flow rate which can be up to 32% less water, depending on the brand purchased.

CONSERVATION TIPS:

#1- **Replace or retrofit your toilet.** Upgrade to a dual-flush model or buy a dual flush handle kit for your existing toilet. A new dual-flush

model uses as little as .8 gallons per flush compared to up to 5 gallons for older models.

#2- **Install high efficiency washers.** New Energy Star washing machines use 50% less water than many old top loading models. You can also easily cut the volume of water they use by only washing full loads. You will save on the cost of energy, too!

#3- **Don't let it run.** When you let the water run: to thaw food, to get cold before drinking, while brushing your teeth or even while showering, you are paying for the water and for its sewer charges. Simple steps like defrosting in the microwave, keeping a bottle of water in the refrigerator and turning off the water while brushing your teeth really add up. Instant shutoff valves are easy to install in your shower and are available at most hardware stores. They allow you to interrupt your shower's stream while you lather, then resume without readjusting the water temperature.

#4- **Add aerators or other low-flow retrofits** to your shower and faucets. Aerators add bubbles to the flow of water to reduce water use without losing pressure.

#5- **Fix leaks right away,** and do not forget to check for sneaky toilet leaks. Some leaks are obvious. Toilet leaks between the tank and bowl are the most common cause of unexplained usage. You can check your toilet by removing the lid on the back and adding a few drops of food coloring to the tank. After 20 minutes or so, if there is color in the bowl, your toilet is a water robber.

#6- **Conduct a whole-house water audit.** It is easier than you might think. You can identify even the sneakiest water robbers overnight by making a note of the numbers on your water meter before you go to bed and checking them again first thing in the morning. If the numbers have changed while you slept (and no one in your home used water through the night), you have a leak somewhere in the house.

You can find more water conservation tips at www.Blendontwp.com, www.AquaWaterSmart.com and www.Delcower.com. Also, if you complete the form below and return it to the Township office by **September 15, 2014**, we will send you a **free** wise water use kit. The kits contain aerators for sinks, a toilet leak detection kit and many other items.

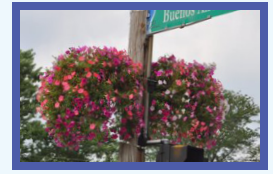
To receive your **free** wise water use kit, please complete the information below and drop off or mail to the Blendon Township Trustee's office, 6350 Hempstead Road, Westerville Ohio 43081.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Employees Work Hard to Make Blendon Township Beautiful

KEEPING BLENDON BEAUTIFUL

We would like to thank our employees for their community support! This past spring some of our staff met on their day off to gather litter in Blendon Township. They are dedicated to controlling litter and sustaining beautification efforts throughout the community.

We also want to thank the Westerville Church of Christ Youth Group for their assistance in cleaning up litter in our Cleveland Heights neighborhood. These young adults collected over 25 bags of litter along the roadsides.

You too can help beautify Blendon. If you are interested in organizing a rewarding litter cleanup project, now is a great time to get involved. Supplies such as bags, gloves, and litter pickup tools are provided. It takes just one person, one school, one business, or one organization to positively impact the behavior of others in the community. For more information please contact our Township Service Director, John Giamarco at (614) 738-2673.

REPORT LITTERING

Anyone who witnesses littering from a car in Franklin County can now report it to the proper authorities. Simply report the vehicle information (license number, make, model, etc.) to the anti-littering hot line (614) 871-5322. Reports can also be made at itsacrime.org. The offender will receive a letter from the Franklin County Sheriff's office. In addition, there will soon be a mobile app to report offenders. This program is funded by the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio.

COMMUNITY SHRED-IT DAY

The Blendon Police Department held a Free Community Shred-it Day this past May and it was a big success. In total, there were over 150,900 pounds of sensitive documents shredded, 6 pallets of electronics recycled and over 40 pounds of medicine dropped off for safe medication disposal.

STORM WATER NEWS

It is illegal to dispose, dump, or drain any substance except storm water into the storm water 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. The Township is committed to keeping the environment clean and reducing water pollution. If you see an illicit disposal, please call our Township Service Director, John Giamarco at (614) 738-2673.



Dumping into storm drains is not just wrong, it is illegal!

RUMPKE WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES GET READY TO PAY LESS

Our current contract with Rumpke Waste Services expires in December 2014. Members of the Central Ohio Consortium recently passed legislation to solicit bids for recycling services and waste removal for the next three years. The consortium includes Bexley, Dublin, Gahanna, New Albany, Reynoldsburg, Westerville, and Blendon, Mifflin, Plain and Washington Townships. The consortium obtained the lowest bids possible for trash hauling and recycling pick-up. They were interested to see if a new company, other than Rumpke or Waste Management, would install a recycling facility in our area. These currently are the only two companies with recycling centers in Central Ohio.

Rumpke Waste and Recycling Services was selected by the consortium. Beginning in January 2015, Blendon Township will begin a new three year contract with Rumpke. With the new contract, all Blendon residents will have a base payment of \$15.02 per month for waste pick-up. This is a reduction of \$2.00 per month. Each community can have different fees on top of the base payment such as a fuel surcharge. They will provide the following new features:

- A reduction of \$2.00 per month for the services for each home.
- Rumpke will provide and deliver two wheeled carts to each home: a 65-gallon brown cart for trash and a 65-gallon green cart for recycling. Residents will have the option to choose a smaller trash cart if interested. These are provided at no additional charge.
- Rumpke's pick up service day for Blendon Township might change beginning, January 2015. Rumpke will send notices to each customer later this year.

We will continue to address customer service situations as they arise.

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

This April, the Blendon Seniors held their first annual Free Breakfast with the Easter Bunny. Bright and early, enthusiastic guests lined up in the lobby. Everyone enjoyed a delicious breakfast of pancakes with all the trimmings. The Easter Bunny took time out from his busy schedule to visit with the children and pose for photos. The kids were delighted to see the over-grown rabbit and participate in a coloring contest and cookie decorating.

Next year's Breakfast with the Easter Bunny is already scheduled as well as Breakfast with Santa this December. Admission is free to these events but reservations are required. Check your future newsletters for the calendar of events.



Cuddling with the Easter Bunny and some of the children proudly displaying their art work.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Board of Trustees Meetings

6330 Hempstead Road, 6:30 p.m.
August 13th and 27th
September 10th and 24th
Thursday, October 9th
October 22nd

Note: all dates are Wednesdays except where noted

Blendon Market

Blendon Township Complex
6350 Hempstead Road
Thursdays from June 12 - October 16
3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Blendon Township and Westerville Area

FREE Kids Lunch Club

Ridgewood Park
5402 Buenos Aires Blvd.
Now through August 8th (Mon. thru Fri.)
Lunch 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
for children ages 1 through 18

Blendon Senior's Car Show

Blendon Township Complex
6330 Hempstead Road
August 23rd
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Registration 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
For registration or more information,
contact Donna Jordan at
DJordan@blendontwp.org or (614) 882-1260

FREE Concert in the Park

Ridgewood Park
5402 Buenos Aires Blvd.
August 23rd

Final concert for this season!

Kelly Goodrich and the Rhythm Kings
brought to you from Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

FREE Breakfast with Santa

6330 Hempstead Road
Saturday, December 6th
8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Reservations required by 11/26/2014
(614) 882-1260

DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES SCAMS A MESSAGE FROM YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT



During the nice weather, many home improvement scammers go door-to-door offering to work on homes or yards. They often show up after a storm. In a common scam, they will offer a free roof damage inspection then say you need a whole new roof!

Others may offer to cut your trees or fix your driveway. Most will ask for a cash deposit to do the job, and then never return. **Never give cash!** There are many reputable home improvement companies but they typically do not go door-to-door soliciting business. Such scammers prey on anyone who answers the door.

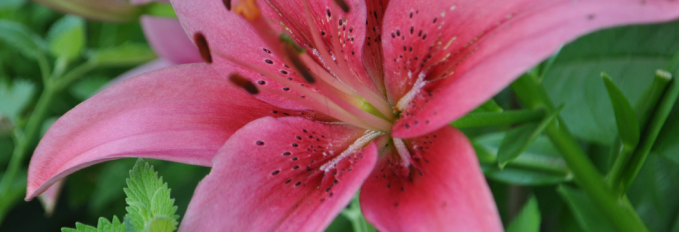
In Blendon Township, all solicitors who meet the Ohio Revised Code definition of Transient Vendors are required to register with our police department prior to knocking on doors. They will be provided with temporary registration permits that MUST be carried while conducting business in the township. This permit is not an endorsement by Blendon Township; it simply provides a record of each individual's information. Non-profit groups such as schools, scouts, and similar organizations are exempt from this resolution. However, they still must show proof of their non-profit status prior to conducting sales.

Please call the Blendon Township Police at (614) 889-9494 if you do not feel comfortable asking to see their vendor's permit, if the solicitor is not registered with the Township, or to report any aggressive behavior. One of our friendly officers will respond and talk to the solicitor. The permit is shown below at its actual size.



E-MAIL ALERTS

Sign up to receive text messages or e-mail alerts concerning: traffic conditions, road closures, road restrictions, power outages, serious water line breaks, police alerts and event cancellations in Blendon Township. These services are free, although text message charges may apply depending on your cell phone plan. To learn more visit www.blendontwp.org.



We hope to see you at our community events!
The calendar is included in this newsletter.

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/Cemetaryian
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
Office (614) 882-8500
Cell (614)314-4714

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) 738-2673

Senior Center:

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

**Did your recycle container or lid
blow away? Replacements are free
upon request at our Administrative
Office. Call: (614) 882-1270**



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 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