

BLENDON TOWNSHIP SPRING NEWSLETTER 2015

A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

Thankfully, after a harsh winter, spring is on the way. We hope you enjoy this newsletter, and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming township events.

The Blendon Township Newsletter features important information about our township programs, services, and events. It is published three times per year in the spring, summer, and fall. Each issue is also available online at www.Blendontwp.org. We thank all of you for your support and pledge to work hard each day to make this a better community for everyone.

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

RUN FOR JANE 5-K RUN/WALK AND MEMORIAL FUND IN MEMORY OF JANE JUERGENS

On October 20, 2013 Blendon Township resident Jane Juergens lost her life as a victim of a violent crime. The entire community was stunned and heartbroken by this senseless act. Please join us for the 5-K run/walk in memory of Jane. All proceeds will be placed in a memorial fund to be used for the creation of a memorial garden for Jane, along the water's edge in Ridgewood Park. This beautiful area was selected by the Juergens' family, friends, and Blendon officials. Jane loved this park and often jogged on the trails enjoying the peaceful atmosphere and beauty of nature.

Date and Time To Be Announced

Donations can be made by visiting www.Blendontwp.org and clicking on the "[Jane E. Juergens Memorial Fund](#)" link located on the front page. You will also find a conceptual drawing of her memorial garden. Checks, made payable to the Blendon Township Trustees with "Memorial" written on the memo line can be mailed or delivered to 6350 Hempstead Road Westerville Ohio 43081. Please help support the healing for the loss of this beautiful lady.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATOR: Fence Maintenance and Installation

Blendon Township zoning requires that all fences be maintained properly. Maintaining a fence includes basic upkeep that controls rust, peeling paint, and broken fencing. If you plan to install a new or replacement fence you will usually need a permit. Our fence permit can be found on our website www.Blendontwp.org.

In general, no fence shall exceed 6 feet in height. If a fence is between a street and a principal structure, the fence shall not exceed 42 inches in height. Only approved fencing material may be used. New or replacement fences must be installed with the posts inside and the finished side out. Remember, some vital purposes of zoning and code enforcement are to preserve the value of your property, guard our environment, and secure safety. Thank you, for doing your part.

Bryan Rhoads, Township Administrator

PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN OUR COMMUNITY

The Board of Trustees is extremely proud of the hard work and commitment Blendon's employees show on their jobs in this community. Over the past few months, some of them were recognized for outstanding service and we are proud to share these accomplishments with you.



(MADD) Mothers Against Drunk Drivers gave an award to Blendon Officers Josh Retherford and Blair Nance for their outstanding efforts to keep impaired drivers off the road.



The Westerville Rotary Sunrise awarded Charel Bowman, Blendon Township's Program Coordinator their "Service Above Self Award".



The Westerville Police Department awarded Blendon Township's Detective Tammy Phillips for her outstanding performance in the apprehension of a burglary suspect.

MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

This Memorial Day we remember those who gave their lives to protect and preserve our country's freedom. Each year, the Trustees hold a Remembrance Service at 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 this Memorial Day, Monday, May 25th, at 11:00 a.m. We will be meeting at the flag pole in the Blendon Township 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!



From the first signs of Spring to community garden harvest time!

It was a fun time for everyone at our Breakfast with Santa!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US AS WE PLAN OUR BI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION?

Blendon Township will celebrate its 200th birthday this year! In honor of this occasion, a Bicentennial Event Committee has been established. We are planning a series of celebrations and are seeking volunteers. If you would like to assist in our event projects to honor our community's 200 years of history, we would like to have you join us. There are many exciting activities to choose from! To volunteer, contact our Administrator at Bryan.Rhoads@blendontwp.org.

FUN FACT:

The most prominent religious denominations in Blendon Township in its pioneer days were old school and new school Presbyterians, United Brethren, and Methodist.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Our popular community garden is back for its fifth year. It is conveniently located behind the Blendon Township Complex on Hempstead Road. The rented garden plots include community garden tools and water. You can register at the Administration Office at 6350 Hempstead Road during our regular office hours – Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or by contacting our Administrative Assistant, Linda Harter at 882-1270. Come grow some fresh food and have some fun!

BLENDON'S SUMMER MARKET

Our summer market is returning too! **From June 11th through October 22nd**, the market will be a blend of produce, books, crafts, jewelry, body oils, and household goods. It will be open Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. It is located in the fields behind the Blendon Township Complex at 6350 Hempstead Road. Come enjoy shopping for fresh produce and wonderful goods while supporting our local economy. If you are a vendor interested in joining us, please contact Ruth.drb@gmail.com.

PHELPS ACRE

Phelps Acre is our newly refurbished park located at the corners of Hempstead and Dempsey Roads. It is currently open but not quite complete. An **exciting new feature is currently in development and will soon be installed!** Watch for up-coming news about this project and our official dedication ceremony. This is one that you will not want to miss!

Phelps Acre was primarily funded by a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. It has an exciting historical story which includes being the site of Blendon's first Presbyterian Church.



BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Join the Blendon Township Seniors for their 2nd Annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny! Young children accompanied by their parents and/or grandparents are invited to a pancake breakfast with all the trimmings. Children will get to visit with the Easter Bunny and receive a special gift. Register today and be sure to bring your camera!

Age Limit: infant to 4th grade

Location: Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road

Date: Saturday, March 28th, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

RSVP by: March 20th Reservations are required

Admission: **FREE**, Donations appreciated

Contact: the Senior Center at 882-1260
Includes: Breakfast, Cookie Decorating, Coloring Contest, Candy and Easter Egg



The Bunny stopped by our office to confirm the date!

GIANT SENIOR CENTER GARAGE SALE

This huge sale will be held inside the Senior Center at 6330 Hempstead Road. The treasures and bargains will be plentiful! Expect to find homemade baked goods, crafts, books, linens, a quilt raffle, great food for lunch, and much more. All proceeds from these donated items will go directly to support our Senior Center. It will be open **Friday, April 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Our Senior Center also offers a variety of classes, health screenings, travel opportunities, informational seminars and more. To find out what is happening, check the Center's bi-monthly newsletter at www.Blendontwp.org or stop by for a tour.

KEEPING BLENDON BEAUTIFUL

Mark your calendars for "Beautify Blendon Days" scheduled from **April 17-19, 2015**. What a great time to begin that home improvement project or find some extra space in your garage! To help with your large scale clean ups, we are placing dumpsters at the following locations on the above listed dates:

- **Huber Ridge Area:** Ridgewood Park parking lot, located off of Buenos Aires Boulevard.
- **Sunbury Woods:** Sunbury Woods Commons, Carnation Drive entrance, south of Blue Bird Place.
- **Cleveland Heights:** The township owned lot on Claridon Road.

Did you know that Blendon Township recycles? Unreadable road signs are recycled to help offset the costs for new replacement signs. This is just one example of efforts we are taking to reduce operating costs and support our environment.



Hoover Reservoir Ducklings



Ridgewood Park Entrance



Huber Ridge Area Beautification



Summer Concerts in the Park



THE IMPORTANCE OF RAIN GARDENS

Rain gardens are shallow gardens designed to absorb rainwater runoff from rooftops, driveways, sidewalks, roads, and other hard surfaces, including turf grass lawns. They allow water to soak into the ground, reducing runoff. Tough plants that thrive during brief periods of inundation as well as drought do well in rain gardens, and they can be installed in a variety of home and commercial landscapes. They not only beautify your landscape but their benefits also include reducing localized flooding and creating important habitats.

Rain gardens work by directing the rain water into the garden via rain chains, rain barrel overflow, downspouts, driveway drains, curb cuts, dry streambeds, and sheet flow. When water flows into a rain garden, less storm water erodes our streams and rivers. The deep-rooted plants break up the hard soils and create channels for the water to move through. The plant uptake, physical filtration, and biological processes reduce contaminants.

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DOCUMENT SHREDDING, SAFE MEDICATION and TIRE DISPOSAL



Back by popular demand, we are providing another **FREE** on-site document shredding, safe medication drop off, and tire disposal day. It will be **Saturday, April 18th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the Blendon Complex, 6330 Hempstead Road.

The Blendon Police will be supervising the document shredding and medication drop off 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.), or household hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, oil, gas).

For information on recycling electronics, contact the Ohio Drop Off Electronics Recycling Center located at 2899 Morse Road, Columbus, Ohio 614-478-0808. It offers services to residents and businesses to dispose of electronics and appliances properly. Call to learn what items they recycle/buy and the other services they have available.



This is a great way to dispose of all of your unneeded sensitive paper documents, medications, and unwanted tires all at one location.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Board of Trustees Meetings

6330 Hempstead Road, 6:30 p.m.

April 8th and 22nd

May 6th and 20th

June 3rd and 17th

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road
Saturday, March 28th

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

Reservations are required by March 20th

Contact the Senior Center at 882-1260

Admission: **FREE**, Donations appreciated

FREE Beautify Blendon Days

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, April 17th-19th

FREE Community Shred-it Day,

Tire Disposal, and Safe Medication Disposal

Blendon Township Complex, 6350 Hempstead Road

Saturday, April 18th

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

Giant Senior Center Garage Sale

Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road
Friday, April 24th 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 25th 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

FREE Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony and "Old-Fashion Picnic"

Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road
Monday, May 25th

11:00 a.m.

FREE Heroin Information Community Outreach Meeting

Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road
Wednesday, May 27th

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

Women's Self Defense Training

Presented by Blendon Police Chief John Belford
Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road

Saturday, May 30th

8:00 a.m. to noon

See article on page 4 for registration information. Deadline to register is Wednesday, May 27th by 4:30 p.m.

Class size is limited

Blendon Summer Farmer's Market

Blendon Township Complex, 6350 Hempstead Road
Thursdays from June 11th -October 22nd

4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

FREE Concerts in the Park Series 2015

Ridgewood Park, 5402 Buenos Aires Blvd.
June 13th, July 18th, and August 22nd

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



2014 IN REVIEW STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP REPORT



2014 was an exciting year for the township. Thanks to the passage of the Joint Economic Development Zone, the revenue has allowed us to keep the budget balanced and embark on several new projects. Although the zone has helped our budget a great deal, we must continue to look for grants and ways to reduce costs to keep our funds healthy. Below are a few updates I would like to share with the community.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

With a goal to advance, encourage and promote economic development for both the residents and businesses of Blendon Township, the Blendon Township Trustees formed the Blendon Township Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) and designated this CIC as the agent for development within the township. The CIC is a non-profit corporation governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees which is comprised of the Township Administrator, one Township Trustee and a resident of the Township. The mission of Blendon's CIC is to retain, expand, and attract jobs to Blendon Township and to assist in funding quality of life projects in the township for both residents and businesses. A new residential grant program is available 2015 to help residents with home repairs. For more information, visit www.Blendontwp.com.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In 2014 we had many achievements. We successfully implemented a hotel tax for future development, started joint business retention meetings with the City of Westerville, adopted a community bill of rights and adopted a sidewalk replacement policy. In 2014 Blendon Township was among a handful of townships who joined the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). As a voting member at MORPC Blendon Township has a voice in the regional planning efforts and the future of our region. As a member of MORPC we are provided with invaluable tools to search for grants, tools to search for data, and inside information into upcoming events.

FINANCES

2014 marked a great year for finances. Thanks to the JEDZ we were able to embark on several new projects while balancing our budgets. This year was a great year for grant money. We received over \$400,000 for roadway projects, \$85,000 for the Phelps Acre park project, and over \$16,000 in grants for senior center operations. The building and zoning departments generated over \$27,000 in revenue and our cemetery sales generated over \$260,000 in sales. In 2014 we created a financial advisory committee and reserve policy to review township finances each year and recommend adjustments to the reserve emergency funds. Because of our fiscal management and all the grants we received, we were able to generate a positive cash flow by the end of the year. This is a pleasant departure from the prior year.

PARKS

In 2014 we were able to make several enhancements to our parks. Ridgewood Park received a new storage shed and a new roof on the shelter house. The paths in the woods were widened to allow for safer travels while enjoying the scenery. Phelps Acre Park received significant upgrades including play structures and landscaping. In total we had 51 park reservations, 31 community garden plots and 27 farmers' market vendors.

POLICE

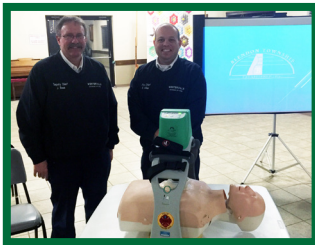
The police department upgraded camera equipment and hired several new staff members in 2014. I am so proud of our officers, especially when reviewing statistics:

National burglary clearance rate= 12% Blendon Township = 21%

National robbery clearance rate= 28% Blendon Township = 55%

Bryan Rhoads, Township Administrator

BLENDON/WESTERVILLE PARAMEDICS AWARDED NEW LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENT



This photograph shows Fire Chief Brian Miller (right) and Deputy Chief John Ross (left) demonstrating the new LUCAS Chest Compression System. This life-saving device assists our paramedics by providing effective and uninterrupted chest compressions on sudden cardiac arrest patients.

Automated CPR removes fatigue, individual variations, and psychological factors from CPR. There is also no need to switch CPR providers every two minutes. Rescuers can focus on other critical life-saving tasks such as ventilation, medication, and defibrillation. The LUCAS Device increases cardiac output to 60% compared to only 30% possible using manual chest compressions.

Special thanks go to Firefighter/Paramedic Rob Glaze and Deputy Chief John Ross. These men helped secure a donation of three LUCAS devices from the Mount Carmel Foundation. We also give our deepest gratitude to the Mount Carmel Foundation for such a generous and valuable donation. These devices would have cost \$15,000 per unit. They have been placed on each of the Division's medic vehicles and the Battalion Chief's vehicle to be deployed throughout Westerville and Blendon Township.

HEROIN & PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE SEMINAR

Heroin is not confined to big cities and dark alleys. It has found a foothold in suburban communities across the nation. Its victims are often not hardened addicts, but teens and young adults from all walks of life. Heroin is an illegal, highly addictive, deadly 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 lethal risks. Over half of heroin deaths are young adults. Almost every county in Ohio has seen a steady increase in the number of heroin cases over the last three years.

As we work to get in front of this epidemic, we urge you to join us **Wednesday, May 27th at the Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road, at 6:00 p.m.** for our next empowering and informative public meeting. It will cover ways to:

- Recognize the signs and symptoms of heroin and other drug abuse.
- Understand the stigma and denial that surround this disease.
- Learn about prevention and treatment programs.
- Learn where to turn for help and what services are available.
- Learn how to put protective strategies in place now.

Members of our group will include parents of youths who are battling drug addiction and parents of teens who lost their lives to heroin use, Fire Department Medics, Police, and representatives of the Office of the Attorney General. This discussion is open to parents, students, and community members. This event will feature experts to answer questions and present ways to get involved. To get reminders and updates on this (and other) community initiatives, make sure you sign up for our Township E-mail Broadcasts by visiting our website at www.Blendontwp.org.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR POLICE CHIEF: WOMEN'S SELF DEFENSE TRAINING

The Blendon Police Department will again be offering a four hour training course for Women's Self Defense on **Saturday, May 30th, from 8:00 a.m. to noon**. The class will be held at the Blendon Township Senior Center located at 6330 South Hempstead Road. The class is open to adult women of any age and girls age 16-17. Juveniles must have written permission from, and be accompanied by, a parent or guardian. The parent or guardian does not have to participate in the course, but must be present during the instruction. Pre-registration and a \$20.00 fee, to cover the cost of class materials, are required.

The first hour will be a lecture and discussion covering many of the myths about self-defense, personal protection devices, and tactics. In the second hour, the class will learn some basic physical techniques and get a chance to practice them against a stationary padded target. In the third hour we move to the mats to learn how to safely fall down and get back to our feet. The final hour gives everyone the opportunity to practice what they have learned in some self-defense situations, against a padded assailant in a Red-Man suit. All instructors (and the "bad-guy" in the Red-Man suit) are Blendon Township Police Officers. This is designed to be a fun, low-stress course with safety and mutual respect as our highest priorities. Although there is some level of physical exertion, each scenario is tailored to the individual. A high level of physical fitness is not required. Elderly and/or physically challenged ladies are welcome. In any of the lessons, each individual can do all, some, or none of the movements as they feel comfortable. You can learn a great deal from just watching the class and nobody will be pressured to go beyond their comfort zone. For those ladies who do want to test themselves in a stressful, simulated physical encounter, we will offer that option.

Register on-line at www.Blendontwp.org or by stopping by the police station, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., or call us at 614-882-8500. **Deadline to register is Wednesday, May 27th by 4:30 p.m. Class size is limited.**

John C. Belford, Chief of Police

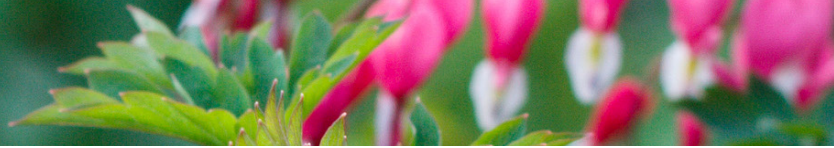
A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATOR: Trash Removal Protocol

Our normal trash pickup day is Friday except for a few holidays. Trash should be put at the curb no earlier than the evening before pickup is scheduled. After trash has been picked up, residents are to remove empty receptacles from the curb by the next morning. If you are unable to get your receptacles, please make arrangements with a neighbor to put them at the side of your home.

Please remember that trash receptacles are to be kept out of sight. The exterior and interior property of every structure is to be free of any accumulation of trash. Our code requires that solid waste/garbage must be in containers with secure lids. Please do not put trash bags at the curb with solid waste in them. Doing so encourages animals to tear the bags while searching for food which litters the streets and yards. If you put trash bags at the curb, you may receive a notice from our friendly code enforcement officer telling you to get and use an approved container.

Bryan Rhoads, Township Administrator

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

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

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

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

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 911
Dispatcher (614) 889-9494
Office (614) 882-8500
Cell (614)314-4714

Fire Department:

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

Road/Service Department:

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

Senior Center:

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

FREE BLENDON E-MAIL AND TEXT ALERTS

Sign up to receive text or e-mail alerts concerning traffic conditions, road closures/restrictions, power outages, 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. Sign up at www.Blendontwp.org.



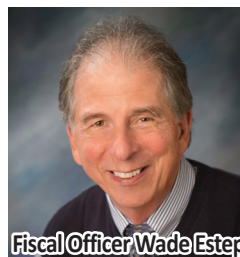
Trustee Jan Heichel



Trustee Stew Flaherty



Trustee Jim Welch



Fiscal Officer Wade Estep

Other Important Phone Numbers:

American Electric Power
(800) 277-2177

Columbia Gas Company
(800) 344-4077 for customer service/emergency (including 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