

BLENDON TOWNSHIP SPRING NEWSLETTER 2018



A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

In recent years, we have addressed the upkeep of our township. We have approved much needed repairs and upgrades to our roads, parks, and cemetery. This newsletter will provide some updates about our new and ongoing projects.

As always, we thank you for your support, suggestions, and comments. We strive to fulfill the vision of our residents and we look forward to continuing our work for you.

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



FROM THE DESK OF FIRE CHIEF BRIAN MILLER SOUND THE ALARM!



Every day seven people die in home fires, most in homes that lack working smoke alarms. The American Red Cross wants to improve these odds and save lives. Their new door to door campaign, **Sound the Alarm**, is a series of home fire safety and smoke alarm installation events across the country. Red Cross volunteers, fire departments, and other partners will walk all neighborhoods, installing free smoke alarms, replacing batteries in existing alarms, and providing fire prevention and safety education.

The Red Cross and Blendon/Westerville firefighters are scheduled to visit every home in Blendon Township beginning May 5th. Watch for updates on our web page at www.blendontwp.org for the neighborhood door to door campaign.

NOTE: WORKING SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES! If you or anyone that you know is interested in having a FREE smoke detector installed in your home now, please call our non-emergency Fire Department number at 614-901-6600. They will be happy to schedule an appointment today!

GLENGARY SHOPPING CENTER RENOVATIONS

Major, exciting renovations are on the way for the Glengary Shopping Center. Demolition of the car wash and movie theater will make space for a brand-new Aldi store! We are working closely with Aldi and the shopping center owner on this planned redevelopment. Visit our website at www.blendontwp.org for updates and photographs as the project unfolds.



The above photographs show the stages of the movie theater demolition. Also pictured are some of our loyal neighbors cheering the progress on! We believe the new construction will help revitalize our shopping center and will help revitalize our Westerville Road corridor.

**FROM THE DESK OF POLICE CHIEF JOHN BELFORD
FELONY CRIME DOWN, ARRESTS UP!**

From calendar year 2016 to 2017 the number of serious felonies in Blendon Township went down. Fewer crime in these categories happened in 2017 than in 2016. Of the crimes that did happen, our police department, and especially our Detective Bureau, made great progress in solving these crimes and arresting the subjects responsible. Our arrest resolution is above the national average in all categories.

TYPE/YEAR	2016	2017
Robberies	5	5
Burglaries	11	7
B & E	7	3
Felony Theft & Forgery	16	9

Clearance by arrest 2017

Blendon Twp. clearance rate:	National average:
Robbery 71%	29.6%
Burglary 66%	13.1%
B & E 25%	18.3%
Felony Theft & Forgery 77%	20.4%

HOUSE NUMBERS CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

In an emergency, could the Fire, EMS, or Police Departments find your home? Time is a very important survival factor in an emergency. It is crucial that your house numbers are clearly visible on your house front and on the curb. Those residents without curbs also need house identification numbers visible on their house and mailbox post.

As a service to residents, the Trustees once again have hired a company to paint house numbers on the curbs. The painting will begin this spring and will be completed this fall.

For those without curbs, the Blendon Twp Code Enforcement Department has reflective house numbers on a green aluminum panel which can be installed horizontally or vertically on the mailbox post. These make finding your home much faster, especially at night. The Township is offering these at a cost of \$6.00. Our cost is \$12.00, but we taking off \$6.00 which is the amount we are paying for each curb painting. To order your contact Branch Wayt at bwayt@blendontwp.org.

The Township adopted the International Property Maintenance Code which requires the display of house numbers on the front of your residence plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters. Numbers shall be a minimum of 4" high with a minimum stroke width of .05inch.



**PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST
FOR THE 2019 BLENDON TOWNSHIP CALENDAR**

We invite every resident to help create the 2019 Blendon calendar. Join us by capturing images of Blendon's nature, people, family activities, and events that tell a story through your eyes of living in our township. We need photos of all seasons. If your photograph(s) are chosen for our calendar, you WILL win prizes!

All entries will be posted at each summer concert at Ridge-wood Park. Winners will be chosen by vote in August by the attendees of our Heritage Day summer concert. Come be a part of selecting next year's calendar photographs! There is no age limit for the photographer and no limit to the number of entries. Some photographs may also be chosen to be featured on Blendon's website, newsletters, and other Township publications. Submit your images all year long to Jheichel@blendontwp.org. Thank you for showcasing some of Blendon's best nature, family, and fun photography.

Wilder Elementary
in association with
Blendon Township
Presents

Pioneer Walk/Run 2018

Saturday May 12
at Wilder Elementary School
7:30 am Race Day Registration
8:00 am 100m Dash
8:30 am 5K Start

**Balloon Animals • Bounce House
Raffle • Bake Sale**

For More Information and to Register Visit:
[https://my.cheddarup.com/
c/wilder5k-25071](https://my.cheddarup.com/c/wilder5k-25071)

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 Road, 6:30 p.m.
May 16th, and 30th
June 13th, and 27th
July 11th, and 25th

FREE WESTERVILLE COMMUNITY BACKYARDS WORKSHOP

Saturday, May 5th
Westerville Service Department; 370 Park Meadow Road
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Please see the article in this publication for further details.

WILDER ELEMENTARY PIONEER WALK/RUN

Saturday, May 12th
Wilder Elementary School; 6375 Goldfinch Dr.
7:30 a.m. Registration 8:30 a.m. 5K start
Please see the ad in this publication for further details.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY AND FREE PICNIC

Monday, May 28th
Blendon Central Cemetery; 6350 Hempstead Road
11:00 a.m.
Please see article in this publication for further details.

FREE SUMMER CONCERT IN RIDGEWOOD PARK

Featuring: John Schwab Band!
Saturday, June 9th
5484 Buenos Aires Blvd.
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

FREE SUMMER CONCERT IN RIDGEWOOD PARK

Featuring: These Guys Live!
Saturday, July 14th
5484 Buenos Aires Blvd.
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

FREE HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, August 25th
10:00 a.m. **15th ANNUAL SENIOR CAR SHOW.** Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road. Expect family fun, beautiful cars, raffles, cash prizes for the top three cars, food, music, and more. To register, contact Charel Bowman (614) 882-1260 or cbowman@blendontwp.org.

4:00 p.m. **VINTAGE BASEBALL GAME.** The Ohio Village Muffins will play Blendon residents for a rematch in Ridgewood Park. Team players for Blendon are needed! Please consider taking part in this fun game and invite your friends to join too! Last year Blendon lost the game. Let's win the rematch! To sign up, contact our Service Director JGiamarco@blendontwp.org or call (614) 882-2673.

6:00 p.m. **OSU ALUMNI BAND.** Join us at Ridgewood Park as they kick off Buckeye season and close out this year's summer concerts.

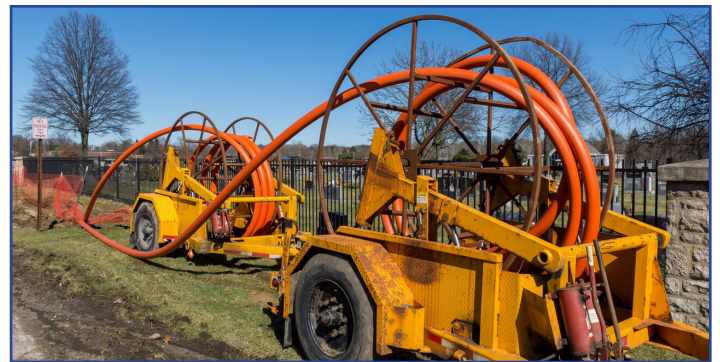
MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

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 28th, 11:00 a.m. at Blendon Central Cemetery (by the flag pole). Immediately following the service please join us for a FREE "old-fashioned picnic" in our Senior Center. What a great way to celebrate all who have served with family and friends!



JEDZ FIBER OPTIC PROJECT

Beginning this spring, fiber optic lines were connected to the Westerville Road and Sunbury Road corridors. Businesses in these areas will be able to connect to our new fiber optic network for a variety of services including the use of the Westerville Data Center. This project, being funded by the JEDZ, will help bring new businesses into Blendon Township. The photograph below shows part of our fiber optic line installation.



COMMUNITY GARDEN



Our popular community garden is back for its seventh 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 (614) 882-1270. Join your neighbors to grow some fresh food and have some fun!



WESTERVILLE COMMUNITY BACKYARDS WORKSHOP



Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to conduct Community Backyards! This is an educational class program that offers one \$50.00 rebate on listed items to eligible Franklin County residents after completing one of the following classes:
Rain Barrel - improving water quality with rain barrels.
Compost Bin- using composting to improve soil conditions.
Native Plants and Trees - proper lawn care techniques and why native plants are so important.

The classes will be held Saturday, May 5, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Westerville Service Department located at 370 Park Meadow Road in Westerville.

For more information on participating communities and eligible rebate items, please contact Kristin Hilson at (614) 486-9613. *Please register in advance so eligibility can be verified and vouchers can be created before the workshop. Those who attend but do not pre-register can request to have a voucher emailed to them once eligibility has been verified.

NOTE: Workshops are open and FREE for ANYONE to attend. Eligibility for rebate vouchers is based on home tax districts.

WESTERVILLE AREA RESOURCE MINISTRY (WARM) SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM



June 2011 marked the first Blendon/Westerville Kids' Free Lunch Club at Ridgewood Park. Your Trustees partnered with Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM) and Mount Carmel/St. Ann's Hospital for this summer food program. It has been very successful since its inception.

We are pleased to announce that again this year, the Free WARM Summer Lunch Program will be held at Ridgewood Park, just off of Buenos Aires Blvd., beginning Tuesday, May 29th to Friday, August 10th, weekdays (except July 4th) from approximately 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. After lunch, the children will be provided with organized educational and recreational activities. The goal is to provide quality lunches to children who have a need within our community during the summer months.

NEW METRO PARK ADDITION IS COMING TO BLENDON TOWNSHIP!

In our fall 2016 newsletter, we shared with you that a new Metro Park will be opening in Blendon Township. We are excited to share how the plans are progressing. The new park will be on a 98 acre parcel of land, located just north of Little Turtle Golf Club in Blendon Township.

Visitors will see scenes similar to Hocking Hills with 100 foot cliffs along the eastside of Big Walnut Creek. It is filled with deep ravines leading down to the creek and is dominated by soaring oak, hickory, and maple trees. Metro Parks' goal is "to conserve the land that reflects what Ohio looked like pre-European settlement" and to keep it as original as possible.

The property will be managed by the park team from Blendon Woods. A target date to open the park has not been set and it has not been named yet. However, it has been decided that this beautiful park will offer few amenities: no decks, picnic tables, or even bathrooms. It will be kept very primitive to help it stay as pristine as possible.

The property was originally purchased by Richard and Ann Shafer. Mr. Shafer was a local business man in road paving and owned other affiliated companies. They built their home off Lee Road on a 25-acre section of the property. In 1958, the Shafers established their foundation. Mrs. Shafer died in 1964. Mr. Shafer died in 1973, six years after marrying his second wife Fanny. When Fanny Shafer died in 2006, she willed most of her estate to the foundation. The land was sold to the Metro Parks by the foundation. The Blendon Township Trustees are thrilled that this hidden treasure will retain its natural beauty and be open for all to enjoy.

The below photograph, by Eric Albrecht/ Dispatch Photos, shows Metro Parks' Director Tim Moloney on a stretch of Big Walnut Creek that lies within this newly acquired park land.





RIDGEWOOD PARK MEMORIAL GARDEN ENGRAVED MEMORIAL BRICKS ARE AVAILABLE

A beautiful Memorial Rose Garden was added to Ridgewood Park in honor of Blendon resident, Jane Juergens. It is located along the water's edge of Spring Run Creek. Here in this peaceful environment we can remember Jane and all of our loved ones.

Engraved memorial bricks are available for placement in the garden to pay tribute to the memory of a loved one, friend, or special occasion. An honorary gift provides a beautiful way to recognize someone special. Order forms can be obtained on our website at www.blendontwp.org. Go to: Departments - Blendon Central Cemetery - Memorial Brick Application. Forms also can be picked up in the Administrative Building at 6350 South Hempstead Road. Return your completed form along with a check payable to Blendon Township. The total cost for the brick, engraving, and placement is \$50.00.

This photograph shows an aerial view of our beautiful Memorial Garden. Spring flowers include bright yellow daffodils followed by gorgeous red roses blooming throughout the summer and fall.



COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

The Trustees formed the Blendon Township Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) with the goal to advance and promote economic development for the residents and businesses of Blendon. The CIC is a non-profit corporation governed by a volunteer Board which is comprised of the Township Administrator, one Township Trustee, and one township resident. Its mission is to retain, expand, and attract jobs to Blendon Township and to assist funding quality of life projects for both residents and businesses.

The residential grant program is available to help residents with home repairs. For more information visit www.blendontwp.org.

SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

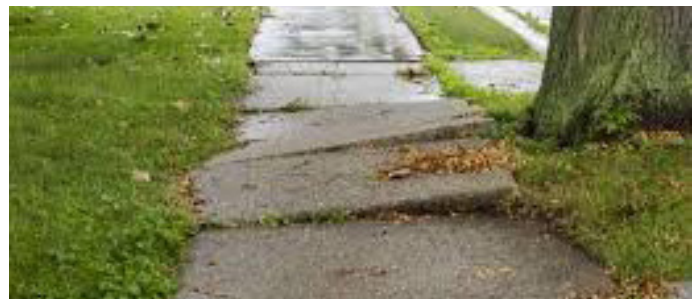
We are reprinting the Sidewalk Maintenance Program from previous years' newsletters because our 2018 Sidewalk Improvement Program is underway. We want you to enjoy taking a walk through your neighborhood. However, deteriorating, misaligned sidewalks can be a threat to your safety.

In Blendon Township, like most communities across the country, the property owners are responsible for the maintenance of their sidewalks. The natural growth of healthy trees in the tree lawns (the grassy areas between the sidewalk and the street) have in some spots caused sidewalk damage from root growth. The Trustees realize that some of these trees were planted by developers when the homes were built and some were planted by homeowners. However, serious hazard conditions exist and must be addressed.

All sidewalks in the Township have been inspected to determine if any portion of the sidewalk is in need of repair or replacement. The Property Owners will be notified accordingly. Options for compliance are listed in the Sidewalk Maintenance Program (viewable at www.blendontwp.org). The Trustees will do everything they can to accommodate homeowners and are sensitive to their concerns. We do not want to cause a financial hardship for anyone and want you to know there are several ways in which we can assist you. For now, the Township will assume the responsibility and costs for sidewalks found damaged by trees planted in the tree lawns. The Township will remove the trees in those areas and replace the damaged sidewalks. No trees will be replaced in the tree lawns, but replacement trees will be planted in various areas of the Township. Any future problems with the sidewalk will be the homeowner's responsibility.

Blendon Township has beautiful trees. While it is upsetting to have to remove some of them, everyone's safety has to be the first priority.

The photographs below show examples of sidewalks that must be replaced.



BLENDON TOWNSHIP SPRING NEWSLETTER 2018

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) 214-6786

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, Cemetery Administrator
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

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:

Charel Bowman, Director
Cbowman@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-1260

Blendon Twp. Code Enforcement:

Branch Wayt, Property Maintenance
Inspector
bwayt@blendontwp.org
Office (614) 356-9752

Other Important Phone Numbers:

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

Rumpke Waste Removal
(800) 828-8171 All customer service inquiries
Email for service concerns can be sent to:
Refuse@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

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

Blendon Township Zoning
(614) 839-2013

Franklin County Building Permits
(614) 525-3166

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

**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.