

BLENDON TOWNSHIP SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2018

A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES



The Trustees, Staff, and Police Department have always appreciated the community's support. After the deadly attack against our Westerville officers, we have received an overwhelming amount of encouragement. Many families, local business owners, school classrooms, and others have stopped by our police station and brought beautiful messages, meals, desserts, and other items to show support. Words cannot express our gratitude to you, but please know that we thank you and appreciate your continued support.

Blendon Township voters will decide on a Police Levy on November 6, 2018. This levy is aimed at maintaining the high level of Police services that you deserve. A great deal of time and effort have gone into keeping the costs as low as possible, but reports show it will cost more money for the next five years to maintain our existing level of services. Watch for more information about this upcoming Police Levy in your fall newsletter.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve you. We appreciate your support, feedback, and community participation.

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

VOTING ABSENTEE

If your voter registration information is up to date, you have the opportunity to vote in any election from the convenience of your own home by requesting an absentee ballot. This way you may make your selections at your leisure and return your ballot to the Board of Elections ahead of Election Day. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is three days before the election in which you want to vote. Request your absentee ballot by visiting the Franklin County Board of Elections webpage at www.franklincountyboardofelections.gov.

REGISTER TO VOTE

Are you a citizen of the United States and you will be at least 18 years old on or before the day of the general election (November 6, 2018)? Have you been a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days immediately before the general election? If so, you can register to vote. Voter Registration forms are available at the Westerville Public Library and online at www.franklincountyboardofelections.gov.

A MESSAGE FROM POLICE CHIEF JOHN BELFORD PROJECT LIFESAVER



When a loved one with Alzheimer's, Autism, Down Syndrome, Dementia or other cognitive issues wanders away from home it is a serious and potentially life-threatening situation. Without effective procedures and equipment, searches can involve multiple agencies, numerous officers, and take a long time. Time is of the essence, because every minute lost increases the risk of a tragic outcome.

The Blendon Township Police Department is currently allied with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office on a new service called Project Lifesaver. We believe this new program will help give you peace of mind and quickly locate your loved ones. Project Lifesaver is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that works directly with law enforcement agencies to resolve these situations quickly.

Residents that are enrolled in the Project Lifesaver Program wear a small personal transmitter around the wrist or ankle that emits an individualized tracking signal. If an enrolled person goes missing, the caregiver notifies the local law enforcement agency, and a trained emergency team responds to the wanderer's area. Most people who wander are found within a few miles of their home. Search times have been reduced from hours or days to minutes. For more information, please contact the Blendon Township Police Department administrative office at (614) 882-8500 or check out the program online at www.projectlifesaver.org.

GLENGARY SHOPPING CENTER RENOVATIONS

The long awaited Glengary Shopping Center renovations are well underway! Blendon Township is committed to improving the shopping center's aesthetics and its accessibility. Sidewalks and lighting have been added. Soon, we will see an attractive new Aldi's store. We look forward to sharing more exciting plans with you in the future. The photographs below show the demolition of the old movie theater making room for the new Aldi's and a concept picture of our future store.



A MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF BRIAN MILLER



SOUND THE ALARM!

“30 years ago, you had about 17 minutes to escape a house fire. Today it is down to 3 to 4 minutes. Three out of five home fire deaths occur in homes where home smoke alarms were not present or not working correctly”- Fire Chief Brian Miller.



SOUND THE ALARM

Save a Life



**American
Red Cross**

The American Red Cross, Blendon Township and Westerville all want to lessen the odds of people being injured or killed due to house fires. A recurring issue in many of these homes is that they lack properly functioning smoke detectors. Whether they are installed, but do not work, or they are not installed at all, the new door-to-door Sound the Alarm campaign aims to increase the number of homes across the country with correctly operating smoke detectors. The campaign works to save lives by having Red Cross volunteers, fire and police departments, and other partners walk neighborhoods, installing free smoke alarms, replacing batteries in existing alarms, and providing fire prevention and safety education.

The Blendon/Westerville Division of Fire is partnering with the American Red Cross to offer free smoke detectors and installation for Westerville and Blendon Township families. Their goal is to visit every home in Blendon Township. If you call, they'll install! The next scheduled campaign is for this fall. They plan to walk through the Sunbury Woods subdivision and help hundreds of families become safer. Even if you have a smoke detector, devices should be replaced every 10 years. 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!

FREE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP OFF

The Westerville Area Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Day is Saturday, September 8, 2018 - 8 am to 2 pm, at the Westerville Service Center, 370 Park Meadow Rd., Westerville. Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) is providing this free service. For a list of accepted and non-accepted items, please visit www.swaco.org. (This program is NOT offered free to businesses. Businesses should contact EEL at (614) 294-1300 to inquire about associated disposal costs for hazardous materials.)

Disposal of oil-based paint will be provided at no charge. There is a \$1 fee per any size can of water-based paint. Latex and water-based paints are water soluble and are not considered hazardous. These can be disposed of using the following method: Add paint hardeners, cat litter, or sawdust to left over paint to solidify it. Leave the lid off (safely away from children and pets). Once dried it can be disposed of with the regular trash.

A MESSAGE FROM POLICE CHIEF JOHN BELFORD SUMMER SAFETY

Many of our residents are familiar with the “Helmet Tickets” that our Officers pass out to kids during the summer. In conjunction with Nationwide Children’s Hospital and Dairy Queen, our officers have coupons for a free ice cream cone that they can give to kids who are observed wearing a helmet while riding a bike. We are participating in that same program again this year. In addition to the free cone, kids can have their parents send in the ticket to be eligible for additional prizes from Dairy Queen and from the Columbus Blue Jackets NHL hockey team. In that same spirit, The Blendon Township Police Department has launched **Project Play-It-Safe, “Stay Out of the Street”**. When kids are observed playing outside and safely away from traffic, our Officers have a “safety-reward token” they can present. The token this month is a tube of colored non-toxic blow-bubbles. We wanted to expand the program beyond just being about bicycle safety and include pedestrian safety as well. Let’s keep all our kids safe this summer. Please drive carefully and follow all traffic safety laws, especially in residential areas and near schools and playgrounds.

Thanks, Chief Belford

FREE HOUSE NUMBER CURB PAINTING PROJECT CONTINUES

As a service to residents, the Trustees have hired a company to paint house numbers on the curbs outside of your homes. The painting began this spring and will be completed this fall. Please use extra caution as these men continue to work along our roadways.

For those of you without curbs, the Blendon Police Dept. has reflective house numbers for purchase. These make your home easier to find, especially for emergency vehicles at night! They are made of a vinyl material with a reflective black background and reflective white numbers.

For our rural areas, we have signs with a reflective green background and reflective white numbers. We are offering these at \$6. Our cost is \$12, but we are taking off \$6, which is the same amount we are paying for each curb painting. To order yours, contact Branch Wayt at BWWayt@blendontwp.org.

SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

All sidewalks in the Township have been inspected to determine those in need of repair or replacement. The property owners will be notified accordingly. The needed sidewalk repairs have been divided into small areas (zones) throughout the community. These zones can be found on our website. They will not all be worked on at the same time. Each year, we will be reaching out to residents who need their sidewalks repaired or replaced according to the maintenance zone schedule. Additional information about our Sidewalk Maintenance Program can be viewed at www.blendontwp.org.

The Trustees will do everything they can to accommodate homeowners and are sensitive to their concerns. They do not want to cause a financial hardship for anyone. Below are two options available for repair/replacement of your damaged sidewalk:

- We have a Community Improvement Program (CIC) for qualified applicants. The Blendon Township CIC promotes economic development for residents and businesses of Blendon Township. This grant program has been very beneficial to help residents with outside home repairs such as sidewalk repair and drainage issues.
- Your Trustees have negotiated the Township rate for your sidewalk repairs from a licensed concrete company. Any Blendon Township resident wanting to hire this company will pay the same rate the Township pays. Of course, you are welcome to hire any individual or company to fix your sidewalks (according to the Sidewalk Maintenance Program). The rates we have negotiated are as follows:

Residential sidewalk replacement includes: removal of sidewalk and haul away, fill with stone if needed, replace the sidewalk and topsoil, seed area (approach not included). This option has an 80 sq. ft. minimum and costs \$10 per sq. ft.

Residential driveway replacement includes: removal of existing driveway and haul away, fill with stone as needed, add wire mesh, replace driveway and topsoil, seed area – (approach not included). This option costs \$7 per sq. ft.

Any additional work, including driveway approach, requested by the homeowner will be offered at a discounted rate. Please call John Giamarco at Blendon Township Service at 614-882-2673 for more information.



BLENDON'S HERITAGE DAY

Saturday, August 25th

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 14th ANNUAL SENIOR CAR SHOW. Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road. Expect to see a change in our show. We have added \$300.00 in CASH PRIZES for the top two cars, Trophies, FREE Food, Raffle Prizes, Music, and More! To register, contact Charel (614) 882-1260 or cbowman@blendontwp.org.

4:00-6:00 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! To sign up, contact John at JGiamarco@blendontwp.org or call (614) 882-2673. Our Blendon team will have a practice the night before the game with pizza afterwards!

6:00-8:00 p.m. BLENDON'S PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW AND CONTEST Vote for your favorite images taken of Blendon's nature, family activities, and events, that tell a story of living in Blendon Township.

6:00-8:00 p.m. OUR FINAL CONCERT OF THE SEASON, FEATURING THE OSU ALUMNI BAND (TDBBITL) in Ridgewood Park from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Since their first reunion in 1966, the OSU Alumni Band has returned over 40 times to perform just "one more time" in the 'shoe'. The first year 228 former band members returned. Over time, the numbers have grown to over 800 returning and up to 600 on the field.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Board of Trustees Meetings (Wednesday unless otherwise noted)

August 22nd

September 5th and 19th

October 3rd, 17th, and 30th (Tuesday)

6330 Hempstead Road, 6:30 p.m.

FREE Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Day

Saturday, September 8th

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Westerville Service Department, 350 Park Meadow Road

See article in this newsletter for details

Community Clean-up Dumpsters for your Large Scale Cleanup

Blendon Township Complex 6330 Hempstead Road

Friday, October 12th, 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 13th, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 14th, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Dumpsters will be set up in our Blendon Township Complex as a Free service to residents for your large scale clean ups.

See www.blendontwp.org for acceptable and unacceptable materials/items

FREE Document Shredding and Tire Disposal

Blendon Township Complex 6350 Hempstead Road

Saturday, October 13th, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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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) 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.