

# BLENDON TOWNSHIP SPRING NEWSLETTER 2017

## A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

By now each household should have received their 2017 Blendon Community Calendar. We apologize for the delivery delay. Your calendar was paid for by the Community Investment Corporation and provides you with important township information including events and a phone directory. All its gorgeous photographs were taken within Blendon Township by our residents and staff. We want to thank everyone who submitted pictures for this calendar.

We invite you to help create our next 2018 calendar. Join your Trustees by capturing images of places, people, and events that tell a story of living in Blendon Township. If your photograph is chosen for our calendar, you could win prizes and be part of our new Blendon Heritage Day Art Festival! Some of the images will also be featured on our website. You can submit your photos via email to [JHeichel@blendontwp.org](mailto:JHeichel@blendontwp.org). Thank you for showcasing some of Blendon's best nature, family, and fun photography.

As always, we thank you for your support and pledge to work hard each day to make this a better community for everyone.

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

## 2017 BLENDON COMMUNITY CALENDAR



## 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 29th, 11:00 a.m.** at Blendon Central Cemetery (by the flag pole). Immediately following the service please join us for a **FREE "old-fashion picnic"** in our Senior Center. What a great way to celebrate all who have served with family and friends!



## ONLINE SURVEY FOR BLENDON RESIDENTS

We believe Blendon Township is a great place to live. We need your help to keep it that way. We are dedicated to meeting your needs and addressing your issues.

In order to hear directly from our residents we are conducting an online survey. We want your input on our community, services and programs. This will be the final opportunity for you to participate in this survey. If you have not already responded to the postcards mailed out, simply follow the instructions below to give us your confidential input.

- 1) Call our Administrative Assistant Linda Harter at 614-882-1270 during office hours to obtain your unique Household Identification Number.
- 2) Visit the Blendon Township Survey website: <http://www.websrg.com/blendontwp>
- 3) Follow the link to the survey.
- 4) Enter your unique Household Identification Number.
- 5) Read the introduction and begin the survey.
- 6) After completing the survey follow the directions to close the survey and save your results.

**All surveys must be completed by March 25, 2017.**

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

Our popular community garden is back for its sixth year. It is conveniently located behind the Blendon Township Complex on Hempstead Road. The rented garden plots include community garden tools, compost, 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 fun!



## BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Join the Blendon Township Seniors for their 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!

Age Limit: infant to 4th grade

Location: Blendon Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road

Date: **Saturday, April 8th, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.**

RSVP by: April 5th **RESERVATIONS are required**

Admission: **FREE**, donations appreciated

Contact: the Senior Center at (614) 882-1260

Includes: Egg Hunt (begins at 9:00 a.m. sharp), followed by: Breakfast, Cookie Decorating, and a visit with the Bunny

The photographs below show the Bunny visiting our office and one of our young residents decorating her very own cookie!



## 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. They can be installed in a variety of home and commercial landscapes. They not only beautify landscapes but also reduce localized flooding and create 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. Rain gardens can be both beautiful and beneficial.



## 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 22nd from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 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, bio-hazard 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.



## 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, March 31st from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 1st 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](http://www.blendontwp.org) or stop by for a tour.

Hats off to our graduates!

Best wishes for all of your tomorrows!

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

The Trustees are proud to present the following events. Watch your next newsletter or visit [www.blendontwp.org](http://www.blendontwp.org) for new events as they are added. For more information on the below activities, please see the articles within this publication.

### Board of Trustees Meetings

6330 Hempstead Road, 6:30 p.m.  
March 22nd  
April 5th and 19th  
May 3rd, 15th, and 31st

### Blendon's Senior Center Giant Garage Sale

6330 Hempstead Road  
Friday, March 31st 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Saturday, April 1st 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

### FREE Egg Hunt (9:00 a.m. Sharp) & Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

6330 Hempstead Road.  
Saturday, April 8th 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

### FREE Document Shredding, Safe Medication and Tire Disposal Day

6330 Hempstead Road  
Saturday, April 22nd 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

### FREE Memorial Day Ceremony and Free Old-Fashion Picnic

6330 Hempstead Road  
Monday, May 29th 11:00 a.m.

### FREE WARM Summer Lunch Program

Ridgewood Park (Huber Ridge Subdivision) Buenos Aires Blvd.  
May 30th-August 11th, weekdays except July 4th  
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

### FREE Summer Concert Series

Ridgewood Park (Huber Ridge Subdivision) Buenos Aires Blvd.  
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday, June 10th  
Saturday, July 15th  
Saturday, August 26th \*\* Blendon's Heritage Day

### FREE Heritage Day

Saturday, August 26th  
Blendon's Senior Center 14th Annual Car Show  
Vintage Baseball Game  
Concert in the Park  
Blendon Heritage Day Art Festival  
Hot Dogs, Chips, Popcorn, Cotton Candy,  
Bounce House, Kids Obstacle Course, and more!  
For updates visit [www.blendontwp.org](http://www.blendontwp.org)

## 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 30th to Friday, August 11th, weekdays (except July 4th) from approximately 10:00 a.m.-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.

## A NEW BUSINESS IS MOVING INTO BLENDON TOWNSHIP

The Blendon Trustees will be welcoming Northwest Title Company to our community this month. Their headquarters will be relocating from the Easton area to Executive Parkway. They will initially bring 16 full time jobs into our community and they plan to grow in this area in the near future. We gladly welcome this new business and appreciate their employment opportunities.

## AQUA OHIO

In late May 2016, Aqua Ohio applied to the PUCO to increase its overall rates for water service by 9.2%. They stated their primary reasons for requesting a rate increase were for infrastructure improvements needed to maintain service reliability, fire protection, water quality, and compliance with federal and state regulations.

The PUCO was given up to nine months from last May to gather information and critically evaluate Aqua Ohio's request. At the time of this publication no decisions have been made. However, the information that we have received from the PUCO Staff Report indicates they are considering a recommendation to the PUCO Commissioners of a rate increase of 6.94%, not 9.2%. In addition, they will recommend that Aqua Ohio establish a shareholder funded pilot program to provide bill-payment assistance to low income customers throughout their service territory. (The average residential customer's water bill for a monthly usage of about 4,000 gallons would increase by \$4.96 per month/16 cents per day at the highest level of increase of 9.2%).

In September 2014, Blendon customers of Aqua Ohio were issued a **rate reduction** of \$3.17 per month. The Blendon Trustees monitor Aqua Ohio and any proposed rate increases for the 2,200 homes in the Huber Ridge Area and Sunbury Woods Subdivision. As always, we have expressed our opposition to the proposed new increase and have pointed out the financial hardships these could create. While time will only tell the outcome of this rate increase request, please be assured that we continue to seek other alternatives for residents with Aqua Ohio Water and we have taken a firm stand to represent you.



# BLENDON TOWNSHIP SPRING NEWSLETTER 2017

## 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, 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



Standing: Trustee Jim Welch, Fiscal Officer Wade Estep  
Seated: Trustee Stew Flaherty, Trustee Jan Heichel

**Blendon Township**  
Franklin County Ohio  
6350 Hempstead Road  
Westerville, Ohio 43081

**We want to hear your opinion about Blendon Township.**

**Your voice counts!**

CURRENT RESIDENT  
7250 CUBBAGE ROAD  
WESTERVILLE, OH 43081-9554

This is your unique Household Identification Number: **BVBG**

Important information inside regarding Blendon Resident Online Survey. Your voice counts! We want to hear your thoughts and suggestions.

## Other Important Phone Numbers:

**American Electric Power**  
(800) 277-2177

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

**Blendon Township Zoning**  
(614) 839-2013

**Franklin County Building Permits**  
(614) 525-3166

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

**Rumpke Waste Removal**  
(800) 828-8171

## 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](http://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.