

# BLENDON WOODS

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Neighborhood News • October 2013

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- Shredding and e-Waste recycling
- Smoke alarms and fire prevention
- Slow down for children at bus stops



COURTESY PHOTO

The Pumpkin Drop will take place on Bear Tooth Court on Sunday, October 27. Don't forget to pay your annual dues of \$20 to be entered to win a \$25 gift certificate.

### CONTEST DRAWING

## Residents who pay their dues get chance to win

Our Annual Pumpkin Drop will be coordinated by the Ginty's. This event is fun for all residents to gather for refreshments and choose a pumpkin or two to decorate your front porch!

Sometimes we have a visit from the Columbus Fire Department if they are not out on a run saving the city.

October is Fire Prevention Month and so we always like to remind everyone about fire safety and checking the batteries in our smoke detectors.

The Ginty's always collect for the Mid-Ohio Food Bank with your donations of non-perishable and canned or boxed foods, so please remember to bring something to fill up the box!

There are always drinks, cookies, donuts and good times getting together

with neighbors, so you don't have to have kids to attend our fall event! The Annual Pumpkin Drop is provided by the BWCA every year and we will be having a drawing for the Membership Drive Contest winners! You don't have to be present to win.

**PUMPKIN DROP**  
» 1 pm, Sunday Oct. 27

Win a \$25 Gift Certificate for paying your dues before the Pumpkin Drop date. Mail your \$20 Dues to **Colleen Krupp at 4328 Bear Tooth Court, Columbus, OH 43230** or give your dues payment to your Area Representative.

To be eligible for the contest drawing, your dues must be turned in at the Pumpkin Drop OR before.

The Woods family on Big Sky Court will have a display of pumpkins starting Sunday, Oct. 27 as well. They would like donations of carved pumpkins to add to the display, which will be lit up.

### TRICK-OR-TREATING

6-8pm for Columbus, Westerville, New Albany & Gahanna on Oct. 31.

- S** Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be short, soft, and flexible.
- A** Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.
- F** Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.
- E** Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.
- H** Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you. Always WALK and don't run from house to house.
- A** Always test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent possible skin and eye irritation.
- L** Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.
- L** Lower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.
- O** Only walk on sidewalks whenever possible, or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.
- W** Wear well-fitting masks, costumes, and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips, and falls.
- E** Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers.
- E** Enter homes only if you're with a trusted adult. Only visit well-lit houses. Don't stop at dark houses. Never accept rides from strangers.
- N** Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes.

# Shredding Day, food drive to benefit Mid-Ohio Foodbank

10am-2pm, Saturday, October 26, 2013  
1700 Morse Rd. (Former Kohl's location)

Help protect yourself and your family from identity theft!

Bring personal papers, computer disks and other materials (*Limit 5 boxes or paper bags, please*) containing unneeded confidential information to our Community Shredding Day to be shredded using Fireproof Records Center's mobile shredding unit at no charge.

Keep these materials out of the hands of identity thieves!

Please bring three non-perishable food items (e.g., boxed dry foods; canned meats, fruits and vegetables; cereals and mixes; pasta and rice) to donate to Mid-Ohio Foodbank to help feed hungry people in central Ohio.

More info: [midohiofoodbank.org](http://midohiofoodbank.org).

To learn more about identity theft, visit [ftc.gov/idtheft](http://ftc.gov/idtheft).

## E-WASTE RECYCLE DRIVE

What is e-Waste? Unwanted consumer and business electronic products and equipment nearing the end of their useful life are called e-Waste or e-scrap.

A \$10 disposal fee is required for CRT

## EXAMPLES

RecycleGirl/TME collects unwanted consumer and business electronic products and equipment nearing the end of their useful life, including:

- |                       |   |  |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| » computers           | » cameras                                 | » Lithium Ion (rechargeable)                               |
| » computer components | » chargers                                | » batteries  |
| » TVs                 | » power adapters                          | » digital cable boxes                                      |
| » monitors            | » printers                                | » MP3 players  |
| » VCRs                | » copiers                                 | » video game systems                                       |
| » DVD players         | » scanners                                | » stereo equipment   |
| » tapes               | » fax machines                            | » audio-video equipment                                    |
| » CDs                 | » ink/toner cartridges                    | » appliances (microwaves, fitness equipment, vacuums, etc) |
| » stereos             | » networking equipment (servers, routers) |  |
| » telephones          | » cable cords and connectors              |  |
| » cell phones         |   |  |
| » PDAs                |   |  |

computer monitors or TVs.

RecycleGirl/TME e-waste recycling collections support community programs for youth and adults. Read more at [mindseyesinc.org](http://mindseyesinc.org), or call (937) 360-1547.

This event is presented by the Northland

Community Council, RecycleGirl, Through Mind's Eyes (TME) and the NABA State Route 161 Task Force and endorsed by the Columbus Division of Police with support from Fireproof Records Center and The Ink Well Business Center.

## SLOW DOWN NEAR BUS STOPS

# Watch for children, drive safely through neighborhood

Winter hours are at dark at 6:30 am for high school students, 7:30 am for middle school and 8:30 am for elementary, slow down for kids at bus stops.

For students waiting at the bus stop during the early morning hours, the lack of light can be frightening and, in some cases, dangerous.

Speeding in residential areas is often community groups' chief concern, largely because of the perceived risks to children. Yet because speeding must compete with other problems for police attention, problems that may appear far more serious, police often do not devote a lot of resources to it. At higher speeds, motorists are less likely to see and react to a pedestrian, and even less likely to actually stop in time to avoid a crash. Read more at [walkinginfo.org/problems/problems-motorists.cfm](http://walkinginfo.org/problems/problems-motorists.cfm)

Many drivers admit to speeding in residential areas. Their reasons for speeding include running late and wanting to make up for lost time.

## Speeding in residential areas causes five basic types of harm:

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| » makes citizens fear for children's safety              | » increases seriousness of injuries to a speeder's passenger(s), other drivers and passenger(s), pedestrians and bicyclists it strikes | » increases the risk of vehicle crashes                      |
| » makes pedestrians and bicyclists fear for their safety |  | » increases noise from engine acceleration and tire friction |

## Speeding increases risks of crashes & injuries for several reasons:

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| » driver is more likely to lose control of vehicle         | » distance it takes to stop vehicle is greater                           | » crashes are more severe at higher speeds |
| » vehicle safety equipment less effective at higher speeds | » vehicle travels farther during time it takes driver to react to hazard |  |

Read more at [popcenter.org/problems/speeding](http://popcenter.org/problems/speeding)

Whether or not you have children, it is a good idea to learn how to drive near them in order to avoid injuries and fatalities. Learning how to drive safely around children requires that you consider the unpredictable nature of kids, which usually means slowing down and paying more attention to the road. Read more

at [wikihow.com/Drive-Safely-Around-Children](http://wikihow.com/Drive-Safely-Around-Children)

Save your license ! A speeding ticket could lead to points on your driving record. Too many points and you could lose your license and your insurance premiums could go up. Read more at [www.keepkidsalivedrive25.org/fast\\_facts.html](http://www.keepkidsalivedrive25.org/fast_facts.html)



## FIRE PREVENTION

# Replace smoke alarm every 10 years and other tips

### FROM THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION:

If your smoke alarm was installed before September 30, 2003, it needs to be replaced.

A working smoke alarm can help you and your family escape a deadly home fire. It can also help save the lives of firefighters who would otherwise have to risk their lives by searching a burning home for residents. A working smoke alarm scans for smoke, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It never sleeps.

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement. Many fatal fires begin late at night or early in the morning, so the U.S. Fire Administration recommends installing smoke alarms both inside and outside of sleeping areas.

Since smoke and many deadly gases rise, installing your smoke alarms at the proper level will provide you with the earliest warning possible.

Never disable a smoke alarm while cooking. A smoke alarm is just doing its job when it sounds while you're cooking or taking a shower with lots of steam.

Instead, you should:

1. Open a window or door and press the "hush" button.

2. Wave a towel at the alarm to clear the air, or move the entire alarm several feet away from the location.

Disabling a smoke alarm or removing the battery can be a deadly mistake.

Each year more than 2,500 people die and 12,600 are injured in home fires in the U.S., with direct property loss due to home fires estimated at \$7.3 billion annually.

To protect yourself, it is important to understand the basic characteristics of fire. Fire spreads quickly; there is no time to gather valuables or make a phone call. In just two minutes, a fire can become life-threatening. In five minutes, a residence can be engulfed in flames.

Heat and smoke from fire can be more dangerous than flames. Inhaling hot air can sear your lungs. Fire's poisonous gases make you disoriented and drowsy. Instead of being awakened by a fire, you may fall into a deeper sleep. Asphyxiation is the leading cause of fire deaths, exceeding burns by 3:1.

### CREATE AND PRACTICE A FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

In the event of a fire, remember that every second counts, so you and your family must always be prepared.

Escape plans help you get out of your home quickly. Twice each year, practice your home fire escape plan.

### Is your smoke alarm working?

#### POWERED BY 9-VOLT BATTERY

- » Test alarm monthly.
- » Replace batteries at least once a year.
- » The entire smoke alarm unit should be replaced every 8-10 years.

#### POWERED BY 10-YEAR LITHIUM BATTERY

- » Test alarm monthly.
- » Since you can't replace a lithium battery, the entire unit should be replaced by following mfr's instructions.

#### HARD-WIRED TO HOME ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

- » Test alarm monthly.
- » Replace backup battery at least once/yr.
- » The entire smoke alarm unit should be replaced every 8-10 yrs.

### 10 tips on smoke alarms

Practice fire safety and do your part to get out, before firefighters have to come in.

- » 1. One of the best ways to protect yourself and your family is to have a working smoke alarm that can sound fast for both a fire that has flames, and a smoky fire that has fumes without flames. It is called a "Dual Sensor Smoke Alarm."
- » 2. Place a smoke alarm on the ceiling of every level of your home and both inside and outside bedrooms. Children and older people can sleep through the loud sound of a smoke alarm. Make sure your escape plan includes someone that can help children and others wake up immediately to escape from the home.
- » 3. If you keep your bedroom doors closed, place a smoke alarm on the ceiling of each bedroom.
- » 4. Check smoke alarms monthly by pressing the test button.
- » 5. Never take smoke alarm batteries out to put into other items like games or remote controls.
- » 6. Teach children what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do when they hear the alarm sound.
- » 7. If there is a fire, leave the home right away by crawling low under the smoke and never go back inside.
- » 8. If smoke from cooking makes the alarm sound, press the "hush" button, if your alarm has one. You can also turn on the kitchen fan, open a window or wave a towel near the alarm until it stops making the sound. Never take the battery out of the alarm.
- » 9. Most alarms need a new battery at least once a year. Some smoke alarms have batteries that last for up to 10 years. If your smoke alarm is over 10 years old, replace it with a new alarm and a new battery.
- » 10. If you rent, talk to your landlord about placing a working smoke alarm in your home. You still need to buy a new battery at least once a year for the alarm.



Some tips to consider when preparing this plan include:

#### Find two ways to get out of each room.

If the primary way is blocked by fire or smoke, you will need a second way out.

Secondary route option: a window onto a neighboring roof or a collapsible ladder for escape from upper story windows.

**Only purchase collapsible ladders evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratory.**

Make sure that windows are not stuck, screens can be taken out quickly, and that security bars can be properly opened.

**Practice feeling your way out of the house in the dark or with eyes closed.**

Windows and doors with security bars must have quick release devices to allow them to be opened immediately in an emergency. Make sure everyone in the family understands and practices how to properly operate and open locked or barred doors and windows.

**Teach children not to hide from firefighters.**

## OUR COMMUNITY PRIDE

# Build Bridges Not Walls

Whether you own your home, or rent it, look around. Does your home add to the unique character of our neighborhood? Can you lend a hand to a neighbor? By working together, we can improve our homes and positively impact our community.

Interaction helps build communities, which is why we continue to promote involvement in our civic association. We'd love to see you at BWCA's meetings.

Meeting dates and other fun events are posted on our websites in the box, right.

Our BWCA general meetings are held quarterly on the second Tuesday of the month at the Kroger Stoneridge meeting room. Our last meeting was October 8.

### New By-Laws

We voted to accept the new BWCA By-Laws, which were revised by Vice President, Jeanne Barrett with input from Area Representatives and BWCA Board Members. The new By-Laws are posted on our websites and distributed to new residents by the Welcome Committee.

Join us for our next meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

General membership meetings are open to all residents of Blendon Estates.

### The BWCA mission

The Blendon Woods Civic Association promotes cooperation, owner enjoyment of their premises, neighborhood spirit and protection of residents' investments in their homes. We want to foster friendly, pleasant and attractive surroundings.

To develop community spirit and understanding, we must practice:

1. Tolerance – open to others; willing to listen and learn
  2. Reciprocity – treat others as you would like others to treat you
  3. Trust – expect that people will act in a consistent, honest and appropriate way
- Being a responsible resident of our community is important; we can work

### WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION ABOUT BWCA



#### Blendon Woods Civic Association Facebook Group

» [facebook.com/groups](https://www.facebook.com/groups/blendonwoods)  
Search "Blendon Woods Civic Association"



#### Nextdoor Blendon Woods website

» [blendonwoodsestates.nextdoor.com](https://blendonwoodsestates.nextdoor.com)



#### Neighborhood Link website

» [neighborhoodlink.com/Blendon\\_Woods](https://neighborhoodlink.com/Blendon_Woods)

together to make a better neighborhood!  
Issues affecting our neighborhood:

### NOISY PETS

We all love animals, but if they are noisy, it disturbs the health and happiness of other residents who want to enjoy open windows, fresh air and nature. Be aware of excessive noise and try to keep it from bothering others.

### TALL WEEDS

Pride in your home shows in the appearance of a well-kept yard, and this includes the easement of your property. Easements are along the roadways or the back of your property, and they have to be maintained, cut, and trimmed just like your front yard. Your property doesn't stop at the fence line if you are along a major road. The Columbus City Code has fines for grass or weeds taller than 12", so please be aware of how your property looks from all sides.

### TRASH, RECYCLING & YARD WASTE

The City of Columbus has a rotating color calendar for regular trash pick-up once a week. It changes when a holiday falls on a weekday. Our neighborhood color is **GREY**, and trash day changes after Columbus Day, October 14th to Wednesday pick-up until the next holiday. Thanksgiving will cause the trash day to change to Thursday after the holiday, etc.

Recycling is collected every other week alternating with yard waste. Yard waste goes in biodegradable bags or a separate rigid container, not in the blue cart.

To check whether recycling or yard waste is being collected, call 645-3111.

Trash, recycling and yard waste cans should be hidden from street view (not in front yard or street) and are not to be put out until the day of pick-up.

### STREET PARKING

Cars in the streets makes it harder to get through our neighborhood safely. They make it more difficult to see children playing or bike riders, and make maneuvering more challenging for snow plows, street sweeping machines and large delivery trucks.

City codes prohibit parking on the street for more than 48 hours. Boats, trailers, RV's and anything other than operative vehicles are not allowed to be stored on the street.

Other City Parking Code Violations are:

1. Parking within 30' of stop signs
2. Parking near intersections
3. Parking in front of auto mail box
4. Parking more than 12" from curb

Please do your part to make our neighborhood safe and promote community spirit by understanding the concerns of others. If we all work together then we will have bridges that connect us and not walls to separate us!

### QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Send all construction criticism and compliments by email your new newsletter editor:

**Alison Colvin** 5417 Wolf Run Dr.

Email: [alison.m.colvin@gmail.com](mailto:alison.m.colvin@gmail.com)

Please include **BWCA** in the email subject line.

### BRIEF: Trail to connect Easton to Nelson Park

The Northland I Area Plan provides an opportunity to help shape and direct the pattern of growth and development within its neighborhoods and business districts. The area planning process addresses land use, urban design, mobility and other potential public improvements.

The city of Columbus has developed a trail that travels along the Alum Creek Corridor from Westerville to Three Creeks Park on the south side of the city. A final segment from Easton to Nelson Park is under development to connect the entire 19 mile trail. The city of Columbus is also working on connecting the Alum Creek Trail with the Olentangy River Trail. Learn more at [development.columbus.gov](http://development.columbus.gov)