



## WINTER 2013/2014 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### SUMMIT PARK UPDATE



For more information visit  
[www.blueash.com/summitpark](http://www.blueash.com/summitpark)

While the weather may be cooling down, construction at Summit Park is just heating up. Since October 2013, construction crews have been completing the underground infrastructure, which is necessary to support the future growth of the park. Thus far, mass earth work and grading of the site has been completed to accommodate future construction.

Construction taking place from December 2013 through spring 2014 will include the completion of the concrete walk around the Great Lawn. Parking lots will also be installed with a base course of asphalt, and the main access road into the park will be under construction. Phase 1 also includes the installation of sod in the Great Lawn, as well as the selection and purchasing of trees around the Great Lawn and the park. Steel pergolas will be built as well, which will feature oversized porch swings that look out onto the 3 acre Great Lawn.

Additionally, construction of the Contemporary Playground will also commence in the next few months, which is scheduled to be complete by late spring/early summer 2014. The 1 acre accessible playground is designed with custom play elements which will only be found exclusively in Summit Park. Separate areas are designed for ages 2-5 and 5-12. A key feature will be the 100 foot ADA ramp that leads to the top of a 7 foot play mound, complete with soft turf sides and a 6 foot wide slide.

LinkedIn



The City of Blue Ash is branching out on social media to better reach its businesses and residents! For the latest news on Economic Development and Blue Ash businesses, follow us on LinkedIn:

[www.linkedin.com/company/city-of-blue-ash/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/city-of-blue-ash/)

If you're a visual person and enjoy pictures, follow Blue Ash on Instagram, @blueashohio

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### RECREATION CENTER RECEIVES 2014 ARTSWAVE GRANT

The Blue Ash Recreation Center recently received a \$2,050 grant from ArtsWave, supported by The Jacob G. Schmidlapp Trusts. With this grant, the Recreation Center will bring two performances by Playhouse in the Park Off the Hill Series, a performance by Madcap Puppets, and a "Play in a Day" workshop by the Ensemble Theatre. This is just one of the many ways the Recreation Center continues to serve the community by offering free or low cost programming to the public. These events are free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required.

The Recreation Center will host *Joan the Girl of Arc* by Darrah Cloud on Saturday, February 8th at the Recreation Center. This performance is recommended for ages 11 and up. *The Short Tree and the Bird that Could Not Sing* by Dennis Foon will be performed on Friday, April 11 at the Recreation Center, and is recommended for ages 5 and up. The doors open for these performances at 6:30 PM with curtain time at 7 PM.

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## RECREATION CENTER RECEIVES 2014 ARTSWAVE GRANT

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Madcap Puppets will present the touring show of *The Enchanted World* on Sunday, March 2. This show is about the greatest traveling showman on the road, Silas B. Thistlewig. Silas weaves his enchanting stories together with giant



puppets and audience participation to win over the crowd. Stories include: *The Three Prince's Gifts* (a tale from Persia), *Sleeping Beauty* (a French tale) and *The Goblins Ring* (a Russian folktale). Doors open at 1:30 PM and show time is 2:00 PM.

The Ensemble Theatre's Play in a Day workshop allows children to write, design, build, and perform an original play, all in the span of 3 hours. This workshop is designed to help foster creativity and the spirit of play while building problem solving, teamwork, and communication skills. Recommended for 2nd-7th graders, this workshop will be offered on Saturday, April 12 from 10 AM to 1 PM, followed by a short performance. There is a \$5 fee per participant, and registration is required. Register at the Welcome Desk at the Recreation Center or call (513) 745-8550.

## BLUE ASH SIGNAGE RULES

The City of Blue Ash enjoys a vibrant commercial environment that provides many options for residents and visitors alike. In order to maintain a community attractive for investment, the City limits visual clutter via temporary sign regulation. Lately, there has been an increase in the number of illegal, temporary signs and a corresponding increase in the number of complaints about them. Therefore, the City recently contacted all retailers with a letter explaining Blue Ash's temporary sign regulations.

In addition to permanent signs, the City does allow temporary signs, but only with a permit and only for limited periods of time.

To apply for a temporary sign, you may fill out a Temporary Sign Application and submit it to the Community Development Department and maintain the sign until the permit period expires. If you have a temporary sign(s) and did not obtain a permit, you may be found in violation of Section 1181.05(k) of the City's ordinance and may be subject to fines. No signs may be placed or installed in the right-of-way under any circumstances. If found, they will be removed and discarded by the City. Applications can be picked up in the Community Development Office at City Hall.

## ANOTHER YEAR OF SUCCESS FOR COOPER CREEK

The Cooper Creek Event Center has had a successful 2013 year, and the future looks even more promising. The facility has hosted dozens of corporate and social events, wedding ceremonies and receptions, golf outings and marketing events since its opening in early

2012, but the past calendar year has shown exponential growth in events.



TYPE OF EVENT	2012	2013
Corporate	125	179
Social	24	25
Wedding Receptions	39	49
Wedding Ceremonies	11	10
Golf Outings	31	35
Marketing	4	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>308*</b>

\* Number subject to change due to pending December events

With 73 events already scheduled for 2014 and 6 events scheduled for 2015, the Cooper Creek Event Center staff is looking forward to another year of success and the opportunity to serve its guests.

## COOPER CREEK RECOGNIZED FOR BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS

The City of Blue Ash prides itself on the many flowers prominently displayed during the spring and summer months. Now, the City has earned another reason to be proud. On September 24, the Golf Course Maintenance Department was notified that its horticultural efforts at the Cooper Creek Event Center have earned recognition by The Cincinnati Horticultural Society. Blue Ash's Golf Course Maintenance Department was awarded the prestigious Gardener Recognition Award on October 28th at a special ceremony at The Kenwood.

The Cincinnati Horticultural Society encourages horticultural excellence by recognizing local residents and businesses whose love of gardening cultivates gorgeous outdoor spaces that delight and inspire all who see them. Over 200 gardeners and organizations have been recognized since 1996. This is the second time Blue Ash has received this award in the last three years.



## Community Gives Back on National Public Lands Day



On September 28, 2013, Toyota brought 60 volunteers to Summit Park for National Public Lands Day. Along with volunteers from local Scout Troops and Sycamore Community Schools, the team assisted Blue Ash Parks and Grounds Maintenance Staff to re-mulch paths in the park. Together, they applied down 350 yards of mulch! Also on this day, Scout Troops from Blue Ash helped remove honeysuckle from the Nature Park. Thank you to all who participated!

## BAPD Officer Recognized by Hamilton County NAMI

A Blue Ash Police Department (BAPD) Officer was recently recognized for his efforts in crisis intervention. Officer Steve Keller was recognized on Wednesday, October 16 at the Annual Hamilton County National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Celebration for “Crisis Intervention Team Excellence”. The event was held at the Xavier University Cintas Center.

Officer Keller was nominated by Liz Atwell, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) instructor from the Mental Health America of Southwest Ohio. Officer Keller became involved with the CIT program as a student in a local 40-hour certification class in Hamilton County. Through this course, he realized that he could have a greater impact on those affected by mental illness in the community by actively seeking ways to improve interaction between law enforcement and the special needs population.

Officer Keller’s engagement with the CIT Program has spread to other officers at BAPD, which now has one-third of the department CIT certified, including dispatchers. Officer Keller works closely with the department in promoting a collaborative effort for dealing with individuals affected by mental illness, and has ultimately inspired a change in culture at the Blue Ash Police Department from a reactive response to a proactive, collaborative effort at all levels. All supervisors are trained so that there is always a CIT officer available, and Steve and other CIT officers are notified of calls for service so they can follow-up with the individual, family, and/or case workers to ensure their needs are fully met. Officer Keller has been with the Blue Ash Police Department since 2002.

## City Wins Award for Community Calendar

The City of Blue Ash’s 2013 Community Calendar won top national honors at the 25th Annual Savvy Awards Competition, sponsored by the City-County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA). The award was announced on September 5 at the 3CMA Annual Conference. The City won second place in the Printed Publications: Calendars category. The entry was submitted by Emily Schaffer, Blue Ash Community and Public Relations Coordinator.

This is the City’s first 3CMA Savvy Award. “This award would not have been possible without the talented photographers who submitted for the calendar, along with the community’s willingness to participate in the voting process. All in all, we did it together. The City is thrilled to have received this award and even more excited to share it with the community,” shared Schaffer.



## Blue Ash Target Asset Protection Manager Recognized by Crime Stoppers

Congratulations to Mr. Josh Crumrine, the Asset Protection Manager at the Target Store in Blue Ash, who received the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Crime Stoppers Security Professional Award at the 14th annual awards breakfast on October 3rd. Josh was nominated for this award by Police Chief Paul Hartinger, who shared that Josh “strives on maintaining a safe environment for not only customers, but also the community the store serves.”



Police Chief Paul Hartinger with Josh Crumrine

# NEW SIDEWALKS ALLOW FOR EASY CONNECTIVITY AROUND THE CITY

During the last several years, many new sidewalks have been constructed throughout Blue Ash, allowing residents and corporate citizens to easily connect to different areas around the City. Blue Ash actively seeks ways to improve the lives of its residents, corporate citizens and visitors, with one initiative being the connectivity plan. In 2013, new sidewalks were installed on portions of Reed Hartman, Cooper, and Plainfield Roads. The Carver Road Rehabilitation Project, which began in August, will conclude in May 2014 and will also result in an 8 foot wide sidewalk along Carver.

## SIDEWALKS SAFETY TIPS:

In Ohio, 10.2% of fatalities are pedestrian related. The City encourages everyone to take advantage of sidewalks, but also cautions individuals to practice common sidewalk safety.

- Walk on a sidewalk or path whenever available
  - If no sidewalk is available, walk facing traffic on the shoulder, as far away from traffic as possible
- Don't be distracted by cell phones, music, or devices that take your eyes and ears off the road environment
- Never assume a driver sees you
- Stay off freeways, restricted-access highways, and other pedestrian prohibited roadways
- Be visible at all times. Wear bright clothing during the day and reflective materials at night



## SIDEWALK LAWS:

According to the Ohio Revised Code,

### Right-of-way pedestrian on sidewalk (4511.441 )

- (A) the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian on a sidewalk

### Right-of-way yielded by pedestrian to public safety vehicle (4511.452 )

- (A) Upon the immediate approach of a public safety vehicle, as stated in section 4511.45 of the Revised Code, every pedestrian shall yield the right-of-way to the public safety vehicle

### Pedestrian walking in roadway (4511.50)

- (A) Where a sidewalk is provided and its use is practicable, it shall be unlawful for any pedestrian to walk along and upon an adjacent roadway.
- (B) Where a sidewalk is not available, any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall walk only on a shoulder, as far as practicable from the edge of a roadway.

### Right-of-way yielded by pedestrian (4511.48 )

- (A) Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right of way to all vehicles, trackless trolleys, or streetcars upon the roadway.
- (B) Any pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point where a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing has been provided shall yield the right of way to all traffic upon the roadway.
- (C) Between adjacent intersections at which traffic control signals are in operation, pedestrians shall not cross at any place except in a marked crosswalk.
- (D) No pedestrian shall cross a roadway intersection diagonally unless authorized by official traffic control devices; and, when authorized to cross diagonally, pedestrians shall cross only in accordance with the official traffic control devices pertaining to such crossing movements.

# HAMILTON COUNTY'S PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Hamilton County Home Improvement Program (HIP) is an initiative of the Hamilton County Commissioners and the Hamilton County Treasurer. The "HIP" loan allows homeowners in Hamilton County communities to borrow money to repair or remodel their homes or rental property at interest rates 3% below the lowest rate a bank would normally offer. Loans may be used for:

- Bathrooms
- Decks
- Kitchen Remodeling
- Plumbing
- Gutters & Roofs
- Paint & Carpeting
- Ceilings & Walls
- Garages
- Landscaping
- Room Additions
- Central Air & Furnaces
- Siding, Windows & Doors

For more information, contact: Jay Springer, "HIP" Coordinator with the Hamilton County Department of Planning and Development at 513-946-4459 or for more information visit [www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/hc/hc\\_hip.asp](http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/hc/hc_hip.asp).

# SISTER CITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS VISIT BLUE ASH



On October 15, a group of 14 high school students from Ilmenau, Germany visited the City of Blue Ash. The group of juniors, seniors, and 2 teachers from Germany, toured the North Fire Station, the Service Department, the Police Station and Recreation Center. The students spent two weeks in the Blue Ash/Montgomery area, staying with host families from Sycamore Community Schools. The exchange is just one of many benefits of the Sister City program established by the City of Blue Ash over a decade ago. For more information regarding the Sister City exchange program, visit [www.blueash.com/sistercity](http://www.blueash.com/sistercity).

# MYCOMMUNITREE ALLOWS BLUE ASH, MONTGOMERY AND SYCAMORE TO CONNECT



Residents of Blue Ash and Montgomery, along with the stakeholders of Sycamore Community Schools, are now able to visit one website to obtain information from all three entities: MyCommuniTree.com.

The site, developed and designed collaboratively between all three entities, is a one-stop-shop for area information, without a requirement to register or be a user of any social media service. The site provides information on activities, services, opportunities and projects in the cities or school district, and will link back to each entity's website and social media platforms for more information.

"It's easy to use, it shares information on public meetings and events across the cities and schools and it has a calendar that can easily be filtered by event type or host", shared Community and Public Relations Coordinator Emily Schaffer.

Also included on the site are up-to-date videos, tweets, Facebook posts and information from each entity.



# COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAM RETURNS FOR 2014

The Community Garden Program at the historic Hunt House will celebrate its 6th year in 2014. The concept was initiated by resident Ann Scranton and the City in 2009 to provide the opportunity for gardeners to exercise their green thumbs. Originally, there were only seven gardeners, but the successful program has expanded to over twenty-five gardeners in the past years.

Between January 1 and April 1, interested participants should email their name, address, and phone number to Mandi Brock (mbrock@blueash.com) to be eligible for a plot. By mid-April, all gardeners will be notified if they were selected for a plot. There is a cost of \$25 per garden plot, which covers several improvements at the gardens (running water at the garden site, fencing and raised beds).



The City provides the land, soil preparation (including additional compost), and water. Gardeners are responsible for doing all of the planting, providing seeds and materials, and are required to provide continual maintenance of their plot throughout the growing season. Gardeners often plant corn, squash, tomatoes, peppers, beans, and cucumbers.

The benefits of the Community Garden Program exceed the plants and crops harvested at the site, as it can give individuals from different cultures and socio-economic groups the chance to meet and interact. Along with this, it gives community members the opportunity to improve social networks between neighbors, foster networking between geographically separate neighborhoods, and teach leadership skills with a sense of community responsibility. It provides the chance to become more in touch with the Earth and its natural resources.

Eligible participants must be residents of Blue Ash. If you have any questions, please call (513) 686-1277.

# CITY COUNCIL NOTES

City Council: On November 5, 2013, all seven incumbents were re-elected for the two-year Council term that runs December 1, 2013 to November 30, 2015.



*Sitting, L to R: Vice Mayor Tom Adamec, At Large; Mayor Lee Czerwonka, At Large; Stephanie Stoller, Ward 2.*

*Standing, L to R: Mark A. Vander Laan, Solicitor (appointed by Council); Rick Bryan, Ward 3; Robert J. Buckman, Jr., Ward 4; Mark Weber, Ward 5; James W. Sumner, Ward 1.*

*Not pictured: Jamie K. Eifert, Clerk of Council (appointed by Council); Bryan Pacheco, Solicitor (appointed by Council)*

## WINTER SAFETY TIPS FROM THE BLUE ASH FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed
- Turn off all holiday lights and decorations before leaving home or going to bed
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other flammable items
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both, read instructions carefully!
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged
- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for a "Fire Resistant" label
- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness, make sure the needles are soft and don't fall off easily
- After the holidays, remove live trees from your home as soon as possible. Dry trees can burn in seconds, and most holiday tree fires occur on or after New Year's Day
- Before starting a fire in a fireplace, remove all decorations and be sure the flue is open
- Do not burn wrapping paper in the fireplace

## Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Orchestra 2014 Valentines Concert

Valentine's Concert: On Sunday, February 23, 2014, the Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Orchestra presents its own version of *From the Top* with several winners of the Jack and Lucille Wonnell Memorial Young Artist Concerto Competition, along with Suzanne Bona, host of *Sunday Baroque* heard on WGUC. Also, cellist Ben Fryxell, a winner of the 2012 competition and now a student at Julliard, will perform in the world premiere of a new composition by Frank Proto. The 7:00 PM concert will take place at the St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 10345 Montgomery Road in Montgomery.

## Operation Giveback Named Non-Profit of the Year 2013

Operation Give Back (OGB) was recognized as non-profit of the year for their commitment to students and their families. For the first time in the organization's history, the Blue Ash-Montgomery Rotary Club honored a non-profit organization as part of its



annual Community Awards Celebration. The celebration was held at the Cooper Creek Event Center, May 16, 2013. OGB students delighted the audience with their testimonials, citing how participating in OGB has helped their study habits and grades.

Formed in 1990, the Blue Ash-Montgomery Rotary Club quickly distinguished itself in the community, as well as with Rotary International due to its many innovative programs and service projects. The Rotary is made up of a highly committed group of business professional leaders who live or work in Blue Ash, Montgomery or Symmes Township. It is only fitting that The Rotary, an organization grounded in humanitarian service since 1905, salute OGB, an organization that has comparable goals. OGB leaders were honored to receive this recognition.

## Hunt House 2014 Dates

Mark your calendars! The Blue Ash Historical Society will hold an open house at the Hunt House on the following dates in 2014:

- April 12, 1-4 PM
- July 12, 1-4 PM
- October 11, 1-4 PM
- December 6, 1-4 PM

The April open house will feature the Ladies Living History Society of Greater Cincinnati who will present a 1860s fashion show from 2:00 to 3:00 PM. Come early for a house tour and refreshments. Visit [www.blueashhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.blueashhistoricalsociety.org) for more details.

## SNOW REMOVAL

It's that time of the year when snow begins to fall and the roads become slick. Please keep in mind that if the City of Blue Ash declares a snow emergency, no vehicle may be parked on any Blue Ash street. The purpose of this law is to make it easier for Blue Ash snow trucks to plow the streets in a safe and efficient manner for the benefit and safety of all Blue Ash citizens and motorists. If declared, a snow emergency will be posted to the home page of the City's website ([www.blueash.com](http://www.blueash.com)), Facebook ([facebook.com/blueashohio](https://facebook.com/blueashohio)) and Twitter (@blueashohio).



Residents can make snow removal easier and more efficient for our crews. A few suggestions of how you can help when it snows:

- Even if a snow emergency is not declared, please avoid parking vehicles on the street. This allows plows to clear the entire street, and also does not block access to your vehicle as the driver cannot control the snow coming off the edge of the plow's blade.
- Please do not shovel or plow snow into the streets. By shoveling the snow into your yard (rather than the street), you will reduce the frustration of the snowplow re-covering the end of your driveway that you already cleared.
- Allow extra time for driving, and take the time to remove all ice and snow from your car. Good visibility is essential, and reducing the chance of snow flying off your vehicle is important for you and other drivers.
- Do not pass a snowplow truck. Each truck has blind spots reducing side and rear visibility. If you cannot see their mirrors, then they cannot see you.
- Increase following distance between your vehicle and others. Also allow for safe distances between your vehicle and a salt truck to reduce the chance of loose materials striking your car and to give you more time to react to sudden stops.

# 2014 Blue Ash Community Calendar Contest Award Winners

People receiving this newsletter via mail are also receiving the 2014 Blue Ash Community Calendar. Our calendar features the City's schedule for the year and contains stunning photography of Blue Ash submitted by residents.

This year, 104 photos were submitted for the contest. After 11 days of voting via "liking" photos on Facebook, 13 photos and 9 winners were chosen in the Blue Ash Community Calendar Contest. The overall winner receiving 71 "likes", who will be featured on the cover, is Blue Ash resident Bernadette Clemens-Walatka for her photo "Spring Blooms". Bernadette received a Blue Ash Prize Pack for her winning entry.

The City appreciates everyone's participation in the contest, and wishes you a safe and happy 2014!



*Cover Shot: Spring Blooms*  
Bernadette Clemens-Walatka



## JANUARY

*My Snowy Blue Ash Home*  
Peter Nord



## FEBRUARY

*Handsome Hawk*  
Jennifer Horn



## MARCH

*Early Evening Rainbow*  
Terrence Huge



## APRIL

*Biking in Summit Park*  
Ryan Sakemiller



## MAY

*Flyover at the Blue Ash Bicentennial Park*  
Terrence Huge



## JUNE

*Splashing it Up at the Blue Ash Rec*  
Terrence Huge



## JULY

*Blue Ash BAM!*  
Peter Nord



## AUGUST

*Sounds of Sycamore*  
Josh Peck



## SEPTEMBER

*Fall at Twin Lakes*  
Kathleen Barbieri



## OCTOBER

*Over the Rainbow*  
Terrence Huge



## NOVEMBER

*Veterans Day*  
Michael Holder



## DECEMBER

*Winter Brings Hope*  
Cancer Support Community