

CITY OF BLUE ASH COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



SPRING / SUMMER 2009

SUMMERBRATION 2009 - JUNE 5, 6 & 7

Start your family's summer season of fun and entertainment right here in Blue Ash with the annual SummerBration weekend set for June 5, 6 & 7!

This fun family event, made possible by title sponsors B105.1 and 94.9 The Wolf and presenting sponsor The Kroger Co., features bar-becue cooking, free national-level entertainment, a family fun area with festival rides and games and other entertainment. This year's national country music



Rodney Atkins takes the SummerBration stage Saturday

lineup, presented by Toyota, includes Crossin' Dixon and Diamond Rio on Friday; Keith Anderson and Rodney Atkins (pictured) on Saturday; and James Otto and the Honky Tonk Tailgate Party featuring Mark Wills, Jeff Bates and Trent Willmon on Sunday.

Everything takes place at Towne Square in downtown near Hunt and Cooper Roads. No

tickets are required for admission or for any concert. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for the concerts. Free shuttle service is available from the Municipal & Safety Center/Recreation Center, E.H. Greene School, and Maple Dale Elementary from 7PM to midnight on Friday, 5PM to midnight on Saturday and 3PM to 11PM Sunday. Buses are handicapped accessible. Many thanks to other generous sponsors for making the SummerBration event possible (in addition to B-105, 94.9, Kroger, and Toyota already mentioned): Allgood Home Improvement; Academy Rental, Inc; Brinks Home Security; Cincinnati Concession & Catering; Coca Cola; DoubleTree Guest Suites; Enquirer Media; GutterShutter Company; Hills Communities Development; LSI Industries; MillerCoors; SmarTravel; and the University of Cincinnati. For more info, including event rules, call the hotline at 745-6259, or click on the "concerts & special events" calendar on the BlueAsh.com website.



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE & CEREMONIES

Don't miss the 57th annual Blue Ash Memorial Day Parade set for Monday morning, May 25, beginning at 10:15 AM. The parade route will be the same as in recent past years (beginning in the Cooper/Reed Hartman Highway area, traveling east on Cooper to Kenwood, south on Kenwood to Hunt, and east on Hunt to the Veterans Memorial area, where ceremonies will be held). The keynote speaker for this year's ceremonies will be from the Blue Ash Air National Guard station, who remain deployed in the Middle East since December. This year's featured military band will be the 338 Army Reserve Band based in Columbus, Ohio (see related article in this newsletter regarding a FREE Sunday evening concert on Towne Square by this band on May 24).

C'mon, Blue Ash ... don't miss out on this fun community event and tradition that shows our deep respect and appreciation for all those who have served, or are currently serving, our great nation!

RECREATION CENTER GRAND OPENING - SATURDAY, JULY 25!

Don't miss out on all the fun planned for the grand opening of your newly renovated and expanded Recreation Center on Saturday, July 25! Brief dedication and ribbon cutting ceremonies will begin at 10AM, and the Recreation crew has lots of fun and free stuff planned for you and your family throughout the day! Just a few examples of free activities will include a fitness fair featuring class demos every 15 minutes; live entertainment, including a magician; open climb on the new climbing wall from 11AM to 4PM; open play in the new game room; pool games; and dinner and concerts pool-side featuring Keith

Swinney at 1PM and Robin Lacy & DeZydeco at 6PM.

Don't miss this historic and fun day celebrating the completion of one of the largest capital improvement projects ever for the benefit our citizens!



A view from the two-level fitness center. Photo taken in late April.

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A Newsletter Published by the City of Blue Ash, Ohio
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TOM ADAMEC APPOINTED TO CITY COUNCIL

At the April 23 Council meeting, City Council formally appointed Tom Adamec to the vacant At Large position on City Council.

This vacancy was created due to the resignation of former At Large Councilman Henry Stacey. The Charter stipulates that Council vacancies be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of Council. Council members utilized a good portion of Saturday, April 4, interviewing all 13 Blue Ash residents who applied for this vacant Council position. Candidates were evaluated on criteria such as history of leadership or service to our city or region, including service on Blue Ash boards or commissions or service with the schools, civic organizations, or homeowner associations, etc.; evidence of engagement

and "roots" in the community; education and work background; diversity; and demonstrated leadership and teamwork ability. Mr. Adamec excelled in all areas of evaluation and was Council's unanimous choice.

Welcome to the team, Councilman Adamec!

Vice Mayor Mark Weber (left) administers the Oath of Office to Mr. Adamec (right) at the April 23 Council meeting



RESIDENTIAL TREE PROGRAM

Blue Ash City Council authorized continued funding in 2009 for the residential tree program which provides assistance to property owners for planting of trees in publicly visible locations on residential properties. Residents have taken advantage of the program to plant hundreds of trees throughout our community. Below are the "basics" of the Program. Visit the tree program portion of BlueAsh.com (under "municipal services") for many more details, or call the Reception Desk during office hours at 745-8500 (ext. 0) with questions....

► This program offers Blue Ash homeowners a discount coupon towards the cost of trees purchased for planting in publicly visible locations (usually front or side yards).

► To receive this discount, you must first get a coupon from the City and purchase your tree through a participating nursery. To order your coupon, call 745-8500 (then dial zero) weekdays between 8AM and 5PM. You will receive your discount at the time of purchase when you present the coupon to the nursery.

► The intention of the program is to allow the planting of up to two trees per residence; however, you may qualify to purchase more trees if you have experienced loss of tree(s) due to recent natural occurrences affecting our region (such as the extreme drought in 2007, ice or windstorm damage, etc.).

► The coupon allows a discount of up to 50% off the cost of each tree, including planting by the nursery, up to a max discount of \$150 per tree.

► All you need to do is order and get your coupon, visit one of the nurseries listed, pick out an appropriate tree for its intended location, present your coupon upon payment, and work with the nursery to schedule its planting.

► It is the resident's responsibility to provide proper care for the tree, following nursery guidelines. Any problems must be resolved between the resident and nursery.



NEW POLICE MOTORCYCLE NOW IN SERVICE!

You might have seen it in recent days ... Blue Ash's first official Police motorcycle was put into service in early May!

A major benefit for having a Police motorcycle is to put a Blue Ash Officer in closer contact with citizens by providing a more approachable means of transportation. Patrol Officer Mike Bray, as one of the City's Neighborhood Liaison Officers, was selected to be Blue Ash's motorcycle Patrol Officer and had to complete 80 hours of extensive training in Nashville, Tennessee before his debut.

The motorcycle is a 2009 Harley Davidson Police Electra Glide, and it was purchased and equipped entirely from seizure monies – not from the City's budget. Training fees were also paid for utilizing the seizure monies. The motorcycle will be used throughout the year, except for the most severe inclement weather

conditions. Officer Bray will be able to do anything on the Police motorcycle that a regular Patrol Officer/cruiser can do, except for transport of prisoners. The Department and City are also excited about the fact that the motorcycle gets about 41 miles per gallon!

The next time you see Officer Bray patrolling your neighborhood, feel free to stop and talk with him and to see close-up the City's newest crime enforcement vehicle!



Neighborhood Liaison Officer Mike Bray with the new Police motorcycle put into service on May 4.

ARMY BAND CONCERT SUNDAY, MAY 24!

The featured military band for the Memorial Day activities, the 338 Army Band based in Columbus, Ohio, will perform a FREE concert on Towne Square at 6PM, Sunday, May 24. Bring your family and friends ... and perhaps even a picnic supper (or stop at a local restaurant) ... to Towne Square and enjoy the unique sounds of this prestigious, national-level military band. What a great way to show your support for our troops! The concert is free and open to the public.



TRASH TALK...

RECYCLING

Your City has teamed up with Rumpke Recycling to offer residents larger (65-gallon) recycling carts! These green carts can hold four times more material than the traditional red recycling bins, and will be offered no charge to residents. Carts come equipped with wheels to help residents transport recyclable materials to the curb and a lid to help keep rainwater and animals out, and the recyclables in! To order a larger recycling cart, contact Judi Ward at 745-8538 or E-mail Judi at jward@blueash.com. Carts will be delivered to residents the week of June 22.



And more good recycling news, Blue Ash – Congrats! Blue Ash continues to be among the best recyclers in the Cincinnati area! Our residential recycling rate has passed the 25% mark, and we are continuing to divert huge amounts of trash from the landfill. These recycled materials can be remanufactured into new, useful products. If you live in a single-family area of Blue Ash, are a new Blue Ash resident, or do not have a curbside recycle container, contact the City at 745-8538 to get your bin, or the new larger cart described above. There is no cost to residents for the bin, cart, or the weekly pickup by Rumpke. Blue Ash residents recycle because it's the right thing to do.

The City has been installing special green containers for recycling cans and bottles (both plastic and glass) throughout downtown, in the Nature Park, at the Recreation Center and pool, and at various other locations throughout the City. These containers are made from recycled plastics and will be easily identified to give citizens a convenient way to recycle drink containers. Aluminum cans and plastic bottles are two of the easi-

est materials to recycle into new products and save a tremendous amount of natural resources. These special containers are funded by a Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District grant in their continuing efforts to help communities reduce the amount of trash going to the landfills. Please start using these new containers!



Left to right: Pete Kelley (Facilities Maint.), Mark Martin (Service Dept.), & Brad Phillips (Facilities Maint.) help place the new recycling containers throughout the City in recent weeks.

Computer and Television Recycling

Did you know that the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District sponsors a program for recycling computers and televisions? The goal of the program is to keep these used electronics out of the landfills by offering convenient recycling services for Hamilton County residents. Some of these services are free and others have a nominal charge. Check out www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org for details or call 946-7766.

DISPOSAL OF BULK ITEMS & HAZARDOUS WASTES

Don't forget that Blue Ash provides a drop-off location for residents at our Service Garage (6131 Interstate Circle) for large items and certain hazardous wastes. Items which may be disposed of include large or small amounts of unbundled brush; trash items (i.e., furniture, bedding, wood, lumber, appliances); hazardous materials (oil, gas, paint, batteries, mercury, lawn pesticides, tires, etc.); and broken concrete, dirt, rocks, topsoil, and debris. These dumpsters at the Service Garage are extremely handy, especially if disposal is desired on a day other

than regular garbage pickup, or if the item would not be accepted by the waste contractor. These dumpsters are for residents ONLY and may not be used by contractors or non-residents. Proof of residency is required by showing a valid driver's license and one other item showing your address, such as a utility bill. Hours for using the dumpsters are weekdays, 7 AM – 3 PM. Saturday hours are printed in the community calendar -- this year on May 2 (we realize this newsletter is printed past this date) and October 17 between 9 AM and 3 PM. Any questions may be directed to (513) 686-1250.

CURBSIDE BRUSH PICKUP

Weekly curbside brush pickup by City crews is available to residents from March through October. City crews check the entire City on Monday and Tuesday only each week, so please have brush to the curb by 6:30AM Monday. Brush consists of limbs and twigs. Please remember too that brush cannot be collected if mixed with other materials (such as leaves, grass, flowers, mulch, bush trimmings, wood fencing, nails, plastic, metal, lumber, etc). The machine used for this service is not designed to accept these materials as possible damage to the machine or bodily harm to City workers could occur with such items. Remember too that brush may also be placed with your normal trash pickup at any time for pickup by Rumpke. Brush must be no longer than six feet in length and tied in bundles or placed in containers for the Rumpke pickup. Residents are highly encouraged to use the Rumpke service throughout the year for small quantities of brush.

Please check out the Public Works section of the Blue Ash web site at BlueAsh.com (within the "municipal services" section) for more about recycling and waste disposal information, as well as the abundance of other services provided to our residents.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

Blue Ash is a great place to live because, for the most part, Blue Ash residents take pride in their homes and neighborhoods. The City's property maintenance codes were created to promote the health, safety, and well-being of residents and neighborhoods through encouraging adherence to City codes. Compliance protects property values and neighborhoods against deteriorating influences. The City's property maintenance personnel regularly identify Code issues and respond to complaints regarding potential violations. Spring is a great time to assess your property, and we can make it easier! The City has developed a property

maintenance checklist to assist in evaluating the exterior condition of your property. The checklist can be found within the Community Development portion of BlueAsh.com (under the "municipal services" section, then click "planning-zoning-permits" of BlueAsh.com), can be picked up at the Community Development Office at City Hall, or can be mailed or faxed upon request by calling 745-8520. Together, we can make sure Blue Ash remains a desirable residential and business community for all to enjoy.



BLUE ASH NOTES...

All **Blue Ash residents**, corporate and residential, are **encouraged to sign up** for the City's new **Blue Ash eBlast!** At least once a month, and more often if warranted, the City will **E-mail an update** regarding the **latest** as to what's happening in our community, including **timely reminders** and other **useful information** for those who **live in, work in, or visit** our community. It's **easy!** Just click on the related article and link accessible from the **BlueAsh.com** home page. And remember too that **BlueAsh.com**, and other **City-produced communications**, are the **best and most accurate** source of **information** in our community!



Kudos to **Blue Ash Police Officer Scott Noel** who was among 23 officers from Southwestern Ohio who **received a Top Cop** award from **Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)**. The award was presented on April 16 and goes to officers who have made a **tremendous positive impact** in the community to **stop drunk driving**, assist victims of this crime, and prevent underage drinking. **Good job, Officer Noel!**



Congrats to Blue Ash based **Epsilon** for receiving the **Cincinnati USA Partnership's** annual **2008 Growth Award**. **Epsilon** is a **leading marketing services firm** with over 100 employees which **recently expanded** to a 28,000 square foot office in Blue Ash. Just a few examples of **Epsilon's** services include strategic consulting, database and loyalty technology, proprietary data, predictive



Pictured above, left to right: Vice Mayor Mark Weber, Julie Fuson from Epsilon, & Economic Development Director Judy Clark.

modeling, and creating and interactive services. In 2008, **Epsilon** attracted a significant number of new clients, including prestigious brands such as Beech-Nut, Commerce Bank, Marriott, NutriSystem, Draft, and DIRECTV. **Epsilon** was presented with the award in late March.

Congrats to part-time Rec Center employee **Ricky Wolf** who was **selected** to be an **Intern** at the **NASA Johnson Space Center** from January to March 2009. **Ricky** worked in the **Loads and Structural Dynamics branch within the Engineering Directorate**, and his group was in charge of developing landing simulations for the new Altair Lunar Lander that is part of the new Constellation program set to land astronauts back on the Moon by 2020. **Ricky** is a second year Junior at UC studying Aerospace Engineering. **Way to go, Ricky!**

With the **2010 Census** fast approaching, **address canvassing** by Census employees started in our area in April. This part of the process assures the Census Master Address File is complete and accurate, confirming that Census forms are mailed to legitimate, existing addresses. The **Census is important** because the results help determine your representation in government, as well as how federal funds are spent in your community. Conducting the **Census** is a huge undertaking, and thousands of new employees are needed to complete the job. If you're **interested in working the Census**, call 1-866-861-2010 or check out <http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs>.

The **final phase** of the **Blue Ash/Hunt Road improvement project** began in early May. This phase affects **Hunt Road** and requires **complete closure** of Hunt between 8AM and 4PM on weekdays **between Conklin Avenue and the railroad tracks**. Motorists should be alert for detour information provided on message boards and signs. This phase of the project should be complete in early July, and is necessary to complete work associated with the installation of storm sewer, with final pavement restoration to follow. Updates will be posted to the City of Blue Ash website (road construction portion) at BlueAsh.com.



The **Annual Blue Ash Police Bike Rodeo** is set for **Saturday, June 20**, from 10AM to 1PM, in the **Nature Park parking area**.



This is a **free event** targeted for **kids** (accompanied by a parent) in **grades K-3**. Bring your **bike and helmet** for a **free safety inspection**, and then try the safety course. **Food, prizes, and demos** are always a part of this fun annual event. Call Police Dispatch at 745-8555 with questions...

Are you **wondering** what the reason may be for the seemingly "impersonal" **address label** on this **newsletter** ... and most likely future mailings from the City? It's not a mistake ... due to **changes in Ohio's public records law**, this label/address format change has been suggested by legal counsel. We just wanted you to know...

Get ready for this year's **Taste of Blue Ash** set for **August 28, 29 and 30**. National entertainment scheduled includes **THREE DOG NIGHT** on Friday, **KANSAS** on Saturday, and **THE COMMODORES** on Sunday. As always, all **concerts are free** and there is no admission charge to the event. **More info** will be included in the **next community newsletter** to be sent in mid August. Click on **BlueAsh.com** for details.



The City's **grounds maintenance staff** is staying abreast of the **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)** situation in our area. **EAB has NOT been confirmed in Blue Ash**. At a recent conference featuring a speaker from Ohio State University, it was interesting to learn that **EAB** has been around longer than first suspected and it is the OSU expert's opinion that **EAB** may eventually reach all susceptible Ash trees (there are only a few resistant varieties). Keep an eye out on BlueAsh.com for new information as it develops.



SPECIAL EVENT RESERVED SEATING OPPORTUNITIES (FOR BLUE ASH RESIDENTS ONLY)

Back by popular demand is the chance for Blue Ash residents to win reserved seating for the national entertainment for special events, including SummerBration; Red, White & Blue Ash; and the Taste of Blue Ash! And it's easy ...

HOW TO REGISTER ...

Only Blue Ash residents may register - maximum of one entry per person per day allowed. You may register ...

- ✓ By E-mail to recreation@blueash.com;
- ✓ By Mail to Blue Ash Rec Center, ATTN: Seating Contest, 4433 Cooper Rd., Blue Ash, OH, 45242;
- ✓ In person at Blue Ash Rec Center or the Municipal & Safety Center (M&SC) - RW&BA & Taste; or at the M&SC (SummerBration).

Please provide name, address, daytime phone, evening phone, & the date(s) you would like reserved seats. For each event, eight winners will receive four reserved seats each.

WHEN TO REGISTER ...

- ✓ For **SUMMERBRATION** ... Entries accepted now through May 29. Winners notified by June 2.
- ✓ For **RED, WHITE & BLUE ASH** ... Entries accepted June 5 - 19. Winners notified by June 26.
- ✓ For the **TASTE OF BLUE ASH** ... Entries accepted July 24 - Aug. 7. Winners notified by August 14.

Call 745-8550 with questions, or check out the special events section of BlueAsh.com.

RAYMOND WALTERS COLLEGE HAPPENINGS...



Raymond Walters College (RWC) recently announced its 2009-10 cultural events lineup open to the public...

ARTrageous SATURDAYS, co-sponsored by the City of Blue Ash, is the Tri-State's premiere performing arts series geared for parents and their children ages 3-10. All performances are on Saturdays at 11AM and 1PM in the RWC Theater on the Blue Ash campus:

- Oct. 24 - The Gizmo Guys (comedic jugglers)
- Nov. 14 - Kathy Wade: A Black Anthology of Music, presented by Learning Through Art, Inc.

- Jan. 30, 2010 - Hansel & Gretel, presented by ArtReach (division of Children's Theatre of Cincinnati)
- Feb. 27, 2010 - ZakLand, featuring Grammy nominated recording artist Zak Morgan
- Apr. 10, 2010 - Catskill Puppet Theatre - Sister Rain, Brother Sun

RWC's RHYTHM 'N BLUE ASH CONCERT SERIES is geared for adults featuring the finest Jazz, Blues, Bluegrass, and instrumental music. All concerts are held on Saturdays at 8PM in the RWC Theater:

- Oct. 24 - The Faux Frenchmen: gypsy jazz, inspired by the 1930's Hot Club of France

- Nov. 14 - An Intimate Evening of Jazz with Kathy Wade (Jazz and Blues)
- Jan. 30, 2010: Percussion Group Cincinnati: ensemble-in-residence at UC's College Conservatory of Music
- Mar. 6, 2010 - The Hunt Family - award-winning family of Irish Step Dancers, Fiddlers, and Singers

Call RWC at 745-5705 or click on www.RWC.UC.edu for more information or to order tickets.



BEAUTIFICATION WEEK 2009

Beautification week is approaching, and we need your help with nominations, Blue Ash!

Nominations will be accepted from May 24 - June 7. It's easy! Here's how you can suggest the property(s) in Blue Ash you think deserve a beautification week award:

- By calling the City at 745-8500 (then dial zero) weekdays between 8AM and 5PM;
- By faxing nominations to 745-8594;
- By E-mail to administration@blueash.com;
- By mail or in-person to the Municipal &

Safety Center, 4343 Cooper Road, Blue Ash, Ohio 45242.

All properties nominated for an award will be judged by the Committee sometime the week of June 7, and the Committee will choose two residential finalists and two business finalists. Awards will be presented at an upcoming Council meeting. For more information on Beautification Week, call Peggy Behm in the Parks & Recreation Office at 745-8644 or E-mail administration@blueash.com.



This Blue Ash home on Zig Zag Road has won multiple Beautification awards in recent years.



This newsletter has been printed on recycled paper!



Don't forget to sign up for the City's new eBlast! electronic newsletters for the latest news about Blue Ash! It's easy! Just click on the related information accessible from the home page of BlueAsh.com & sign up for the eBlast. Remember too that BlueAsh.com, & other communications from the City (such as this newsletter), are the best source for the most accurate news about your community.

COMMUNITY BULLETINS...

The **BLUE ASH/MONTGOMERY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** kicks off their summer season on Blue Ash Towne Square on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, at 6PM (rain location: Sycamore Junior High). This concert will appeal to a wide range of tastes, and includes a moving tribute to those who have paid the ultimate price of war. Also, as is traditional for this concert, the Youth Symphony, conducted by Dale Swisher, will also perform. Fixed seating at Towne Square is limited ... bring your lawn chairs or blankets. The Symphony will also perform Thursday evening, July 3rd, in Montgomery Park. All concerts are free and open to the public. Call 232-0949 or check out www.bamso.org for more info...



Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Orchestra

And **MORE SYMPHONY NEWS**...any Blue Ash resident interested in serving on the Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Board of Directors is encouraged to contact Stephanie Stoller at 793-0873.

The **SYCAMORE SENIOR CENTER** is in need of volunteer drivers for its growing Meals on Wheels program, especially in the Blue Ash, Loveland, Madeira, and Montgomery areas. The program was recently expanded to include special menu choices that meet dietary restrictions and offer more flexibility in the delivery of meals. The Center depends on volunteers to deliver meals on over 18 routes each day. Delivering meals to the elderly and disabled is a rewarding experience that does not require a lot of time – why not take a few hours out of your week or month to help – you'll be glad you did! Call Cynthia at the Center (984-1234) to volunteer.



Did you know that the Sycamore Senior Center pictured above at 4455 Carver Woods Drive in Blue Ash has over 600 volunteers? And it's a bargain too! Though you do not have to be a member to receive services, the nominal \$20 annual membership fee (\$35 per couple) helps underwrite the Center's costs.

The **HAMILTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES** reminds us that smog season is here! Below are just a few things you can do to help to cut back on air pollution

- ✓ Maintain your vehicle with properly inflated tires and regularly scheduled oil changes.
- ✓ Don't idle your vehicle – it wastes gas and pollutes the air.
- ✓ Conserve energy by turning off lights and computers at home and at work.
- ✓ Refuel after 8PM, tighten your gas cap, and don't top off at the pump.
- ✓ Rideshare – combine trips and eliminate unnecessary trips.

For more tips or information, visit www.hcdoes.org or call the hotline at 946-7753.

Did you know that **HAMILTON COUNTY** offers a free Prescription Discount Card Program? The card offers average savings of 22%, and those Hamilton County residents who may benefit from the program include those who are uninsured, are insured but have a prescription for a drug that is not covered on their plan, and who must buy human drugs for their pets. There is no enrollment fee, and there are no forms to fill out. Cards can be picked up at any Hamilton County Public Library, YMCA's, and other locations. Call 946-1010 or check out www.hamiltoncountytx.com for info.

Kudos to the Blue Ash based **MATTHEW 25: MINISTRIES (M25M)** 2009 Humanitarian Hall of Fame inductees, including the Blue Ash/Montgomery Rotary Club (organization award), the First Baptist Church of Hamilton (volunteer award), and Brad Johansen (media award). Because of their actions, thousands of people around the world can lead better, safer, healthier, and more productive lives each year! And did you know that M25M was recently recognized by Forbes.com as one of the most efficient large charities in the nation? That's important because it means M25M uses the money and items that you donate to directly impact the lives of the poor. Only .6% of total cash and in-kind donations go towards overhead costs – the remaining 99.4% goes directly to programs that bring hope and

help to those who need it most. Thanks, M25M ... we are proud that you've chosen Blue Ash as your home!

The **BLUE ASH WOMAN'S CLUB** annual garden tour is set for Saturday, June 6, beginning at Noon at the Gazebo Tea Garden at 10461 Kenwood Road. Call Beverly at 891-4043 for more info...



The **HAMILTON COUNTY STORM WATER DISTRICT** invites the public to attend the 2009 watershed signage kickoff event set for Friday, June 5, at the Blue Ash North Fire Station at 10647 Kenwood Road beginning at 8AM. The signage installation demo will take place at the north branch Sycamore Creek Crossing on Kenwood Road between Pfeiffer and Zig Zag Roads. The event is free and open to the public; however, an RSVP is requested by May 29 to Annette at 772-7645, Ext. 21.

The **BLUE ASH/MONTGOMERY ROTARY CLUB** is assisting the Sycamore Senior Center by providing volunteers for their Handyman Service. Though Senior Center members will be required to pay for any necessary supplies, there is no charge for the service. Examples of services include fixing loose items, changing light bulbs, fixing/replacing smoke detectors, installing bathroom grab bars, moving of items from room-to-room, leaky faucet fix, and many more services. Center members should call the Center at 984-1234 for more info...

The **BLUE ASH AIRPORT DAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE** has regretfully announced that there will be **no Blue Ash Airport Days event in 2009**. The economic downturn limiting sponsorship dollars, as well as other obstacles, have made this decision necessary.

Congratulations to this year's **BLUE ASH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (BABA)** scholarship winners: Mary Beth Dickert, a Senior at Mt. Notre Dame High School and winner of the \$2,000 renewable "traditional" scholarship; and Blue Ash resident Susan Dudek, winner of the \$500 non-traditional student award. Congrats, ladies, and best of luck in your future studies!

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK REMINDER

In mid May 2006, the City of Blue Ash implemented an emergency telephone notification service through a contracted company called CodeRed. The system, sometimes referred to as "reverse 9-1-1," is designed to rapidly call residences and businesses within the city via telephone with a recorded message, alerting them of matters of public safety such as crime alerts, missing persons, evacuation, shelter-in-place, etc.

Although initial data of residential addresses and telephone numbers was downloaded into the system by CodeRed, residents and businesses are encouraged to link to CodeRed where they can individually enter, or confirm, their information, which is kept strictly confidential. The opportunity to enter multiple telephone numbers is also possible, including cell numbers, etc.

While an initial download of residential phone numbers was made, it's important to note to our business community that such a download of business phone numbers is not available. So it's important for businesses to enter their phone information to be included within this notification service as well.

Please also note that it is NOT the intent to use this system to notify in the case of severe weather. Given the unpredictability and sudden nature of severe weather, residents will need to continue to rely on the Hamilton County sirens for immediate notification. Although the system will not be used to warn of weather emergencies, the system can be very useful in the aftermath should such a disaster affect any portion of Blue Ash. The system has already been used three times since its inception, including twice during the

September 2008 windstorm.

If a resident chooses not to be included in the database to receive these public safety messages, he/she may remove the telephone number(s) from the database by downloading, completing, and returning the Request for Removal from Database Form from the website (BlueAsh.com). Sorry ... no return faxes or E-mails of this form are accepted since original signatures are required.

Questions regarding the Code Red/emergency contact program should be directed to the non-emergency Police number at 745-8555.



A NOTE REGARDING PROPERTY TAXES...

Did you know that the collection of both residential and business property taxes is the responsibility of Hamilton County – not the City of Blue Ash? Since Blue Ash is sometimes contacted by citizens regarding their property tax bills, we thought this information might be interesting...

Blue Ash is often asked for information about where their property tax monies go and just how much is used to provide local services within the City of Blue Ash. Real property taxes are based on the "assessed valuation" of your property – your property is assessed at 35% of market value. This market value is determined by the County through periodic reappraisal by the Hamilton County Auditor's Office. For example, if the actual or market value of your residential property is \$200,000, the assessed valuation is \$70,000 (35% of \$200,000). State law requires that all real property in a County must be reappraised every 6 years.

"Reappraisals" involve a County representative physically visiting the property to determine its value. Every 3 years, property is "reevaluated," and any adjustments to the values are made at that time (such as for inflation, etc.). Reappraisals were done in 2008.

The millage or tax rate applied to the assessed valuation is essentially determined by the voters in the district where the property is located. The semi-annual tax bill which property owners receive is forwarded by the Hamilton County Treasurer's Office and generally arrives in the year after the tax period being collected. For example, the tax bill that is due for payment in July of 2009 covers taxes due for the second half of 2008. Therefore, there may appear to be a delay in the impact of expiring levies or new millage approved by voters in the district.

Although the actual calculations determining the gross real estate tax, credits, rollbacks,

etc., can be somewhat complex, it is relatively simple to determine just where your tax dollars are going. For example, the right hand portion of your most recent tax bill contains a breakdown of funding to the various categories at the school, city, county, and special project areas.

A review of Blue Ash residential property tax bills due/paid in February 2009 (Sycamore School District) show that about 63% of your property taxes go to the Sycamore Schools. It is interesting to note that the City of Blue Ash portion of your gross millage is only 3.08 (as set by the City Charter), and represents at best revenue to the City of Blue Ash of approximately 6% of property owners' total gross real estate taxes paid.

For more information about your property taxes, visit the County Auditor's web site at www.HamiltonCountyAuditor.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS ... DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING EVENTS...

May 23Pool Opens!
May 30Dinner & A Movie on Towne Square
May 24Army Band Concert on Towne Square
May 25Memorial Day Parade & Ceremonies (10:15 AM) & Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Concert (6 PM)
June 2First Tuesday Concert – Note that all Tuesday concerts will be on Towne Square again in 2009!

June 5-7SummerBration
June 12First Friday Concert on the Square
June 20Police Bike Safety Rodeo
July 4Red, White & Blue Ash event @ the Sports Center
July 7Special 30th Anniversary Golf events @ the Golf Course
July 25Recreation Center Grand Opening!
July 27-31..Business Appreciation Week at the Rec Center



Note: this list above is not intended to be a comprehensive listing of all that is offered by your City & the Parks & Rec Department. Check BlueAsh.com for complete concert schedules & other event info, or call the special events hotline at (513) 745-6259.

CELEBRATE JULY 4TH IN BLUE ASH!

The City's Red, White & Blue Ash July 4 celebration is the place for your family and friends to be on Saturday, July 4!

The event, co-sponsored with media partner WCPO Channel 9, takes place at the Blue Ash Sports Center, 11540 Grooms Road. Gates will open at 2PM for this fun-filled City event, which will feature the region's best July 4 fireworks display and free regional and national-level entertainment, in addition to a family fun area (with festival rides, games, etc.), food, and beverages. This year's national-level entertainment will feature country star **GRETCHEN WILSON!** See article elsewhere in this newsletter regarding the chance to win reserved seats! There is no

admission charge to this event or the concerts, and no tickets are required for admission. Free shuttle service from the Procter & Gamble lots east and west of Reed Hartman Highway will begin at 4PM. (Many thanks to P&G, The Kroger Co., Brendamour Warehousing, and Hewlett-Packard for their assistance in allowing nearby parking ... we couldn't do it without you!) Many thanks to these other sponsors (in addition to WCPO Channel 9 mentioned above): Presenting Sponsor: The Kroger Co.; national entertainment presented by Michael Schuster Associates; and other sponsors including Academy Rental, Inc.; Allgood Home Improvement; Cincinnati Concession & Catering; Coca Cola; DoubleTree Guest

Suites; Enquirer Media; Gutter Shutter Company; LSI Industries; MillerCoors; Nina Paul Jewelry; Rozzi's Famous Fireworks; and SmarTravel. For more info, including event rules, call the hotline at 745-6259, or click on the "concerts & special events" calendar on the BlueAsh.com website.



Don't miss the Tri-State's & Rozzi's largest July 4th fireworks display in Blue Ash at the Sports Center.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF BLUE ASH GOLF!

All Blue Ash residents are cordially invited to join the City as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of our award-winning championship golf course on Tuesday, July 7 – exactly 30 years after the Course's opening!

"Golf like it's 1979" is the theme, with events to include a special re-dedication ceremony and very special fees – just like they were in 1979! Make arrangements now to take a vacation day from work – if you think the Course is a bargain now, wait till you see what prices were back then! Tee times for this special day will be available for Blue Ash residents only beginning Sunday, June 21 (686-1280). In addition, all non-alcoholic beverages and food items will be 30% off all day, and there will be door prizes and a commemorative gift for all who participate! Also ... be sure to congratulate our Golf Pro, Bill Mayer, who was on staff when the Golf Course opened in 1979 and who remains with us today!

Call 686-1280 for more info, or check out the Golf Course portion of BlueAsh.com as more details become available.

And ... congrats also to the Blue Ash Golf Course for being selected in early April once again as the "**Best Golf Course**" by the **readers** of the Greater Cincinnati area *City Beat* magazine!



Your award-winning & nationally-rated Blue Ash Golf Course is among the most beautiful & affordable courses around!

And it's not just for golfers -- the Sandtrap Sandwich Shoppe is open March through November for your lunch convenience ... give it a try!



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