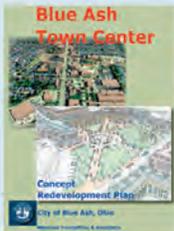


BLUEASH



CITY OF BLUE ASH 2006 Annual Report



2006 ... The Year In Review





BLUE ASH CITY COUNCIL

Front Row sitting, left to right: Mark F. Weber, Vice Mayor, Ward 5; Robert J. Buckman, Jr., Mayor, Ward 4; Stephanie Stoller, Ward 2.

Back Row standing, left to right: Henry S. Stacey, At Large; Mark A. Vander Laan, Solicitor (appointed by Council); James W. Sumner, Ward 1; Lee Czerwonka, At Large; and Rick Bryan, Ward 3

January 2007

Dear Blue Ash City Council:

It is a pleasure for Blue Ash's City Manager and Administrative Team to submit to you the 2006 Annual Report.

The intent of this report is to summarize highlights of the significant accomplishments of each department and division of the City of Blue Ash during calendar year 2006. Please note that it is not the intent of the report to include a comprehensive listing of all that Blue Ash has to offer to those who live, work, and visit our community. Rather, the report offers a summary of the major highlights and achievements during the year.

It is truly a privilege to work for the City of Blue Ash, and we look forward to continuing work with Council towards the many exciting opportunities that face our community and its residents in the future.

Respectfully,

BLUE ASH CITY ADMINISTRATION

David M. Waltz

David M. Waltz
City Manager

James S. Pfeffer

James S. Pfeffer
Treasurer/Admin. Ser. Director

Charles D. Funk

Charles D. Funk
Parks & Recreation Director

Dennis E. Albrinck

Dennis E. Albrinck
Service Director

Chris D. Wallace

Chris D. Wallace
Police Chief

Richard R. Brown

Richard R. Brown
Fire Chief

Susan K. Bennett

Susan K. Bennett
Public Information Officer



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Year 2006 was truly an exciting one for the City of Blue Ash, with a number of significant accomplishments affecting all departments and divisions of our city. Guided by City Council leadership, the City Manager's and Treas-

urer's Offices were involved with these major projects virtually on a daily basis, and a summary of those major successes are below as well as upon other pages later within this report as noted.

▶ MAJOR SUCCESS STORIES ...

● AIRPORT PARK AND ISSUE 15:

After over 20 years of on-again, off-again talks with the City of Cincinnati, 2006 saw the resolution of the airport property dilemma. The solution? Thanks to approval by voters of Issue 15 in November, Blue Ash will purchase about 130 acres of the airport property from Cincinnati for park development, Cincinnati will work towards reconfiguring the airport on the south side of the existing runway, and Blue Ash will move forward with the planned improvements for the Recreation Center and Golf Course. See more info

about these exciting projects beginning on Page 24.

● **CITY MANAGER RETIREMENT & APPOINTMENT:** Long-time City Manager Marvin Thompson retired as of June 30th, and City Council appointed Blue Ash's next Manager, David Waltz, effective July 1st. Read more about these on Page 23.

● ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROGRESS: Blue Ash experienced a tremendous year of economic development growth, including the completion of Duke's The Landings development (pictured), made possible through the TIF financing tool to

fund public parking garages, and the announcement of Citigroup IT center which will eventually house 1,000 employees. See Page 16 for more info about these stories, as well as the City's new branding initiative especially targeted for ED purposes.



● **HUNT HOUSE:** The City's historic Hunt House opened to the public in October, featuring the "unveiling" of its restored first level to the home's 1890s era. See Page 22 for more info about this project.

▶ OTHER CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE ACTIVITY ...

● Initiation by the City Manager of a new in-house publication "Blue Ash Bulletin," which provides enhanced quarterly communication, particularly geared for Council, regarding activity and accomplishments of all City areas.



● Coordination of Council meeting info, including drafting of legislation, agenda

coordination/planning, and prep of other supporting information.

● Public information outreach, such as the Community Newsletters, mailed to residents and businesses three times a year; the 2007 Community Calendar; and maintenance of the City's general BlueAsh.Com website and community access cable channel.

● Coordination of the Sister City program and involvement with Blue Ash Sister

City, Inc. 2006 activity included coordinating a visit of an Ilmenau delegation. See the Sister City section of this report on Page 23 for details.

● Coordination of the Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies.

● Mailing of "welcome" packets to new residents.

● Taking of photos during the year at special events as well as in general throughout the City.

▶ OTHER TREASURER'S OFFICE ACTIVITY ...

● General supervision and support for the Finance, Tax, Technology, and Human Resources offices.

● Overseeing of the risk management function for the city, including involvement with the City's insurance pool, MVRMA.

● Resolution of numerous complex real estate issues. A major success in

this area was the finalization of the lease and renovation of 4391 Creek Road to enable job expansion for a major Blue Ash taxpayer.

● The sale of surplus City-owned real estate (to encourage economic development) was finalized. This involved land on Cornell, Florence, and Cooper Road. These real es-

tate sales resulted in revenues of about \$500,000 for the City.

● Along with the City Manager, updated the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for review by Council for long-term planning use.



► EARNINGS/INCOME TAX OFFICE ...

The Tax Division is responsible for the collection, reporting, and enforcement of the City's Tax Code, including the City's 1% earnings tax which applies to all who live, work, or operate a business in Blue Ash. The Division has three full-time employees, in addition to the Deputy Treasurer/ Tax Commissioner who also oversees the City's Finance Office. Highlights of Tax office 2006 activity include:

- Gross earnings tax collections in 2006 totaled \$23,127,863. Of these collections, \$6,158,763 (or 26.6%) were net profit related, and \$16,969,100 (or 73.4%) represented withholdings. This represents approximately 3.16% over 2005 collections.
- In 2006, the Tax Office processed about 5,100 Income Tax returns and reconciled about 1,967 withholding accounts.

- With the passage of Issue 15 and the increase in the earnings tax from its current level of 1.0% to 1.25% effective January 1, 2007, the Tax Office mailed appropriate notices to all residents and businesses informing them of this change.
- Reviewed the process and proceedings relating to Tax/ Mayor's Court to improve efficiency and effectiveness.
- The Tax Commissioner expanded her involvement with local tax related training organizations.
- With the cooperation of the Facilities Maintenance Division, renovations to the Tax Office were successfully and efficiently completed in 2006. This minor office renovation has been extremely well received by the Tax staff and has improved the overall environment and efficiency within the office.

► FINANCE OFFICE ...

The Finance Office is responsible for all areas of financial administration, including revenue recording, investments, expenditure tracking, financial records administration, budgeting, debt financing, auditing, payroll administration, and financial reporting. The Division has one part-time and three full-time employees, in addition to the Deputy Treasurer/ Tax Commissioner who also oversees the City's Tax Office. Highlights of 2006 accomplishments include:

- Completion of the 2005 audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). In 2006, the City was advised that its 2005 CAFR received national governmental reporting recognition -- the City's 19th consecutive award. The results of the 2005 audit were also very favorable.
- Began efforts for the initiation of a bank card purchasing program for benefit of all departments and divisions. This program will be especially helpful for accounting efficiency associated with the many smaller purchases made by all departments and divisions. It is expected this program will be in place in February 2007.
- Completed all activity associated with the preparation of the 2007 Tax Budget and 2007 Proposed Budget.
- The Finance Office processed 6,087 budget (i.e., non payroll) checks, and 1,913 Purchase Orders.

GENERAL FUND FINANCIALS 2006

Beginning 2006 Gen. Fund balance.....	\$ 7,588,274
Add: Revenues in Gen. Fund	\$30,311,105
Total Gen. Fund Resources	\$37,899,379
Less: Gen. Fund expenses	(\$19,907,375)
Less: transfers to other funds:	
Streets (SCMR).....	(\$ 1,150,803)
Parks & Rec	(\$ 3,285,603)
Golf operations	(\$ 351,622)
Debt retirement	(\$ 3,889,354)
= End of 2006 Gen. Fund balance	\$ 9,314,622

2006 financial activity generated sufficient General Fund resources to:

Pay operational costs	\$21,798,409
Pay for reduction of property note	\$ 500,000
Buy capital or do capital projects	\$ 2,772,663
Pay debt retirement costs	\$ 3,513,685
Plus add this amt to our Gen. Fund balance:	\$ 1,726,348
TOTAL	\$30,311,105

Police Department

In 2006, the Blue Ash Police Department relied upon 60 full-time and part-time personnel. Of these, 38 are full-time officers. The Department consists of one Chief, two Captains, one Lieutenant, eight Sergeants, 26 Patrol Officers, eight Auxiliary Officers (part-time), six Dispatchers, three Mayor's Court employees, and four staff personnel. Two bureaus operate within the department, Operations and Administration. The Operations Bureau in-

cludes all functions directly related to enforcement, such as Patrol and Detective Sections. The Administration Bureau includes all staff, support, or administrative functions.

In 2006, a Homeland Security Unit was added to comply with Federal and State mandates. A changeover of Department uniforms was completed in the spring, replacing the former gray uniforms (used for the past 30+ years) with Navy Blue. Citizens first saw these uniforms on of-

ficers at the Memorial Day Parade event.

The operating budget for the Police Department was approximately \$6.1 million, with actual expenses being approximately \$6 million. Significant increases in maintenance of equipment and gasoline were experienced in 2006.



▶ OFFENSES REPORTED/ CLEARED STATISTICS

In 2006, a total of 1,763 offenses were reported. The three largest categories were drug offenses (21.33%), non-criminal reports (19.21%), and thefts (18.41%). Of all reports, 77% were successfully cleared. Blue Ash's crime clearance records continue to be very impressive and compare very positively with national averages, as is shown in the chart to the right.

CATEGORY	% OF CRIMES CLEARED	
	NATIONAL AVG*	BLUE ASH
Violent Crimes	45.5%	82%
Property Crimes	16.3%	46%

***Based upon FBI Uniform Crime Report (UCR) for 2005**



▶ AUTO ACCIDENT STATISTICS

In 2006, a total of 620 automobile crash reports were made, 111 on private property and 509 on public roadways. Of those reports, 97 involved injuries (15.7%) and 11 (or 1.8%) were DUI related. State-wide average of accidents involving injuries is 24.7% with 4.6% involving DUI drivers. The total number of 2006 accidents was down 16 from the 636 number in 2005.

▶ MAYOR'S COURT

Blue Ash operates a Mayor's Court as is allowed by the Ohio Revised Code. The Mayor's Court is allowed to hear only traffic or misdemeanor cases -- no DUI, DUS (driving while under suspension), or felony cases. An Officer can base a charge upon either Ohio State law or the Blue Ash Municipal Code. Whether a case is heard in the Blue Ash Mayor's Court de-

pends upon how the Officer writes the charge. If the charge is based upon the Blue Ash Municipal Code and if it is a misdemeanor or traffic violation, then the case may be sent to the Blue Ash Mayor's Court. Otherwise, the case must be sent downtown to be heard by the Hamilton County Court system.

Mayor's Court convenes approximately two times each month. In

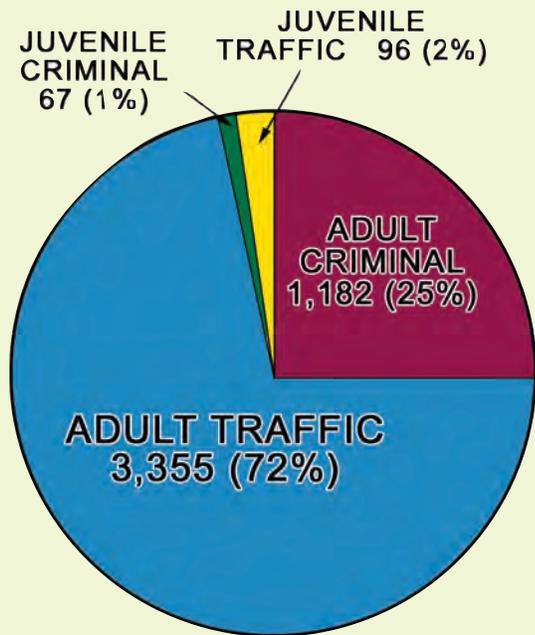
2006, a total of 2,385 cases were referred to the Court -- 2,253 traffic citations and 132 criminal citations. The Court's revenues in 2006 were \$154,488 in fines, \$14,087 in costs, and \$860 in forfeitures. Comparable revenues in 2005 were \$255,273, \$24,043, and \$860 respectively.



▶ ARREST STATISTICS

Arrest statistics for the Police Department are divided into two categories: criminal arrests and traffic arrests (i.e., tickets or citations). The total number of criminal arrests was 1,249, and the total number of traffic tickets/citations was 3,451. Each category is further divided into adult and juvenile categories, with a summary of the 2006 statistics shown in the chart:

2006 ARRESTS / CITATIONS



▶ CALL-FOR-SERVICE STATS

In 2006, the Department handled a total of 16,177 calls for service and details. Of these numbers:

- About 10.5% involved proactive patrol strategies, such as bank, hotel, and business checks; bike patrol; positive citizen contacts; and traffic stops.
- About 12% reflect service-type details, such as public fingerprinting, background checks, bank runs, vehicle lockouts, vacation house checks, assisting school buses, and assisting disabled motorists. About 10% of these details involved assistance to the Fire Department.
- About 1.9% involved assistance to other police agencies.
- The busiest times of the day, as reflected in the number of calls for service, are summarized below:

TIME OF DAY (between ...)	# OF CALLS
3 and 4PM	.1,157
4 and 5PM	.851
1 and 2PM	.848
Noon and 1PM	.823

Overall, these calls accounted for about 25.5% of the total calls.

▶ OTHER NOTABLE EVENTS AND DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

Additional notable Department activities are summarized below:

- In May, the emergency telephone notification service (often termed "reverse 9-1-1") was implemented. This system calls residences and businesses via telephone with a recorded message alerting them of matters of public safety, such as missing persons, crime alerts, evacuation, etc.
- One homicide occurred at the Fox Run Apartments. This case was successfully cleared by Blue Ash officers.

- Two DUI checkpoints took place during the year - one at Plainfield & Ronald Reagan Highway and the other at Cornell and Kenwood Roads.
- One new officer was hired and two officers resigned, one an auxiliary.
- Lt. Dennis Boone was assigned to the U.S. DEA Task Force.
- Officer Mike Bray was assigned to the newly-created Neighborhood Liaison Officer position. The goal of this position is to facilitate an alliance between citizens and the Police in developing strategies to

address crime and other quality of life issues in our neighborhoods.

- The Department continued its commitment to the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program at the Edwin H. Greene Intermediate School within the Sycamore School District (5th and 6th grades).
- The Department conducted 21 presentations or programs for the general public.

D.A.R.E.
TO KEEP KIDS
OFF DRUGS.

Fire Department

The Blue Ash Fire Department operates its 24-hour a day services out of two stations: the North station at 10647 Kenwood Road, and the South station at 4343 Cooper. The Department had 30 full-time fire fighting and EMS personnel, 18 part-time Fire and EMS personnel, and one full-time Secretary. Of the

18 part-timers, 13 left the Blue Ash department for full-time positions in other fire departments, keeping the hiring and training staff quite busy through the year.

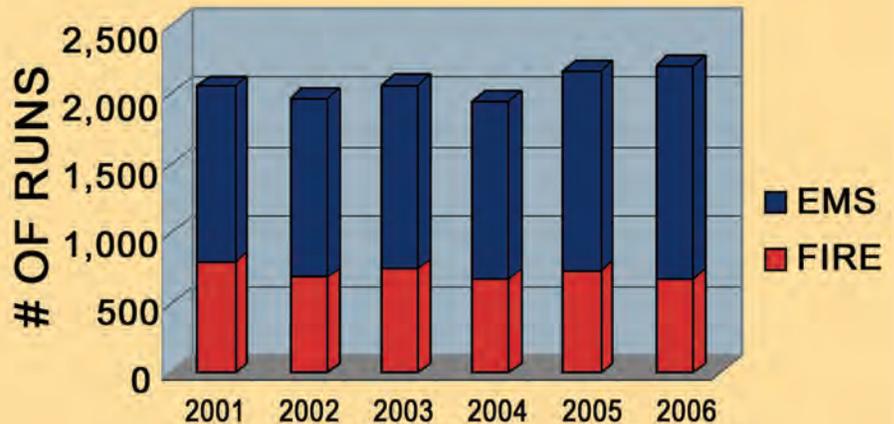
There were a total of 674 fire runs and 1,545 EMS runs in 2006 -- a total of 2,219 (see charts for monthly details and for yearly com-

parisons for Years 2001 through 2006). Medicount Management continues to conduct the EMS billing services for Blue Ash, with year-to-date charges being \$718,340.92 and amount collected \$324,424.52.

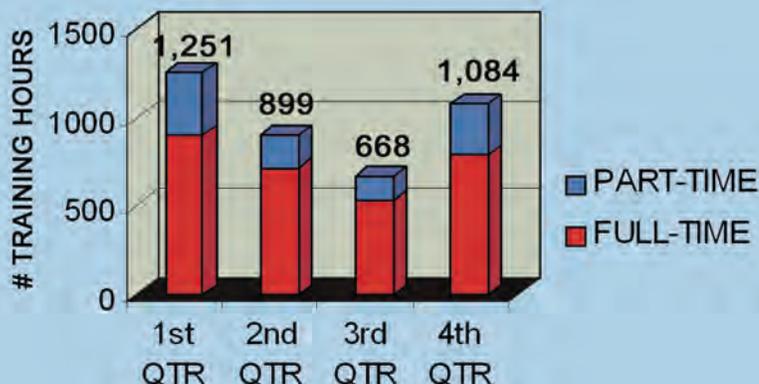


MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- At the end of 2005, restructuring in the department to put greater emphasis on fire prevention and inspection was implemented. This paid off in 2006 as inspections, a total of 1,392, were up over 214% compared to 2005 levels and over 901% above 2004 levels. The Department also reviewed 283 sets of plans, including plans detailing fire suppression systems, fire alarm systems, and site and building plans; reviewed 131 third party fire protection systems and followed up with compliance issues; and completed 237 acceptance tests on new or modified fire protection systems.
- In February, Janet Dreyer was promoted to Fire Lieutenant (as a part of restructuring) and in December, John Hale was promoted to Lieutenant (due to a resignation). Janet is the first female Lieutenant in the Department's history.



- In 2006, Council approved the purchase of a new aerial tower truck, replacing an existing 1982 ladder truck. Specs were developed, bids were solicited, and a contract was awarded to Pierce Manufacturing. It is anticipated this new truck will be delivered to Blue Ash in February 2007.
- Two new vehicles were received in 2006: a new Horton paramedic unit, replacing a medic unit that was 10 years old, and a new staff car, replacing an existing staff unit over 11 years old.
- Fire Department fleet maintenance was performed in-house by full-time employee Don Morrison, a Firefighter/Paramedic who is also a certified mechanic. Don works with the Service Department mechanics to complete preventative maintenance, and some minor repairs to the Fire apparatus. Performing such work in-house results in substantial savings and efficiencies.



TRAINING

Much effort in the Department is devoted to training of personnel. Such training is involved at the federal, state, and regional levels, including the Federal Department of Homeland Security. The Department is able to respond using an all-hazard approach of service, and training to the highest standards allows the Department to meet any challenge that may occur. Total training hours for full- and part-time personnel are shown to the left.

FIRE DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED)

▶ HYDRANT MAINTENANCE

In 2006, the Department formed a team, purchased tools, and began performing minor fire hydrant maintenance in-house. This resulted in a huge benefit as it allowed hydrants to remain in service, in lieu of having to wait for an outside contractor to make repairs. About a third of the City's approximate 900 hydrants were also painted in 2006.



▶ PREVENTION & SAFETY EDUCATION

The Department is committed to teaching educational classes in fire prevention and safety to adult and children residents as well as our corporate citizens. A summary of those efforts is shown to the right.

*Special trainings include fire safety talks, tornado safety training, fire gear demos, participation in neighborhood block parties, fire truck & EMS squad demos at schools/preschools, etc.

CLASS / ACTIVITY	# OF ATTENDEES	# OF CLASSES
Fire station tours	210	12
CPR/AED	105	12
Fire extinguisher training	224	10
*Special Classes & training	1,123	18
Fire Safe House	1,293	7

▶ OTHER DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

- The Department participated in the national Fire Prevention Week from October 8 - 14, with the national theme: "Preventing Cooking Fires." Approximately 200 citizens attended an Open House at the North Fire Station, and Gold Star Chili donated food for the event. The City's Sister City delegation, in town from Ilmenau, Germany, also was able to attend the event. The Department conducted a live burn of a simulated kitchen and cooking fire (also constructed by the fire staff), demonstrating to the public how easily and quickly cooking-related fires can start and spread (live burn plus other open house photos are pictured).
- In 2006, the Blue Ash Fire Department housed the Hamilton County Command Van. This van, purchased with federal funding, is a state-of-the-art unit with the latest technologies for computer, camera, radio, and internet communications. The Command Van is operated by a unit comprised of firefighters from throughout Hamilton County and is utilized throughout the Greater Cincinnati region.
- Other services offered by the Department throughout the year include the sale of carbon monoxide detectors at a subsidized cost of \$15, the sale of weather radios (\$35), free smoke detector installation and child car seat installation, participation in Ursuline's prom night activities, and BAT (Basic Aid Training) training for fourth graders at the Maple Dale and Blue Ash Elementary schools.



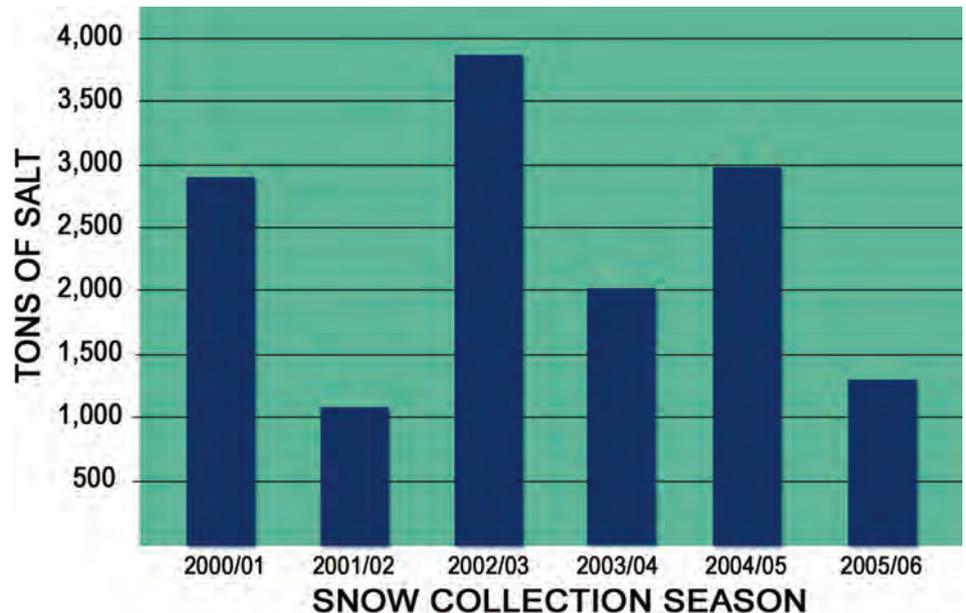
Major services in which the Service Department is responsible include street and drainage maintenance, administration of the refuse and recycling collection contract, equipment maintenance, traffic signal

maintenance, and building maintenance support. The Department, as with all City departments, also plays an important support role in the City's special events. In 2006, the Department provided these and

other services to the City with a full-time staff of 22 and three part-time employees. Highlights of the year are summarized on these pages.

▶ SNOW AND ICE CONTROL

The 2005/2006 **snow and ice season** was relatively mild. Crews were called out 24 times for pre-treatment or de-icing salting. This compares to 32 call-outs in the prior year season. The most recent ten-year average is 22.3 times. Crews spread nearly 1,300 tons of salt and 3,005 gallons of calcium chloride. Over 1,054 staff hours, driving over 8,800 miles, were expended to treat roads this season.



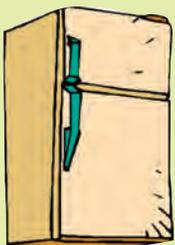
▶ CURBSIDE LEAF AND BRUSH COLLECTION

Curbside leaf collection and curbside brush pickup programs both offer a major convenience for residents. Leaf collection is offered one day in the spring and from mid October through mid December in the fall. In 2006, crews spent 2,428 staff hours taking care of leaf pickup services, and disposed of 4,270 cubic yards of leaves. The **curbside brush pickup** service for residential areas is offered once per week from May through December, with regular pickup occurring on the weekday following the resident's regular garbage pickup. This curbside service was reinstated in 2005, and in 2006, about 2,000 cubic yards of chipped brush and tree limbs were picked up and properly disposed.



▶ HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE & CFC DISPOSAL

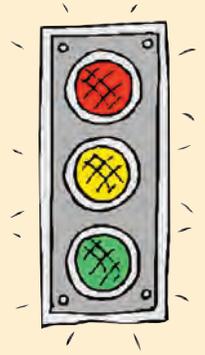
The City continued its free service to residents for the disposal of **household hazardous waste** items, which residents bring to the Service facility, as well as **curbside pickup of items containing CFC's** (freon), which also require special disposal procedures. Examples of household hazardous waste items include paint and paint containers, tires, batteries, and other items which cannot be placed out for regular pickup by Rumpke. In 2006, the City spent \$30,563 to have such household waste items properly disposed of, and it again has proven to be a major convenience for residents since they can call ahead for curbside pickup. The Department picked up 93 CFC-containing units for later proper freon removal and appliance disposal, and an additional 89 units were dropped off at the Center for freon removal and disposal.



▶ ROAD AND TRAFFIC SIGNAL PROJECTS

The City's largest **road project** in 2006 consisted of the repair of Glendale-Milford/Pfeiffer Road from Reed Hartman Highway to the east corporation line near the I-71 interchange. Other major road work in 2006 included the Cincinnati Water Works project to pave Cooper Road from the west corporate border to Carpenter's Run as a part of their restoration work after a new water main was installed.

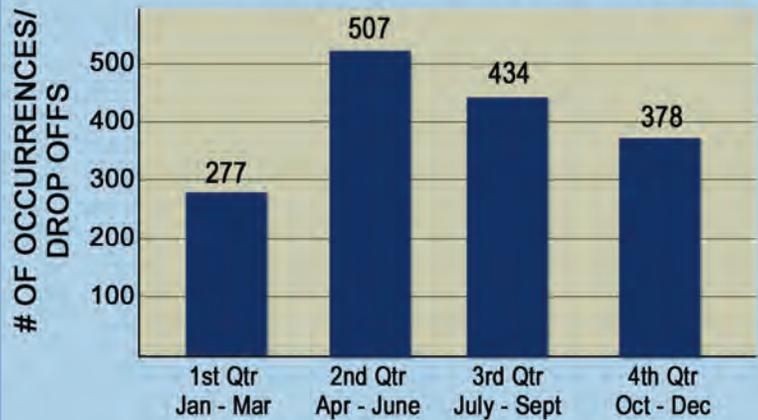
Traffic signal improvements were made at Glendale-Milford/Plainfield, Plainfield/Georgetown, and Plainfield/Ronald Reagan Highway. The Glendale-Milford/Plainfield improvements include a dedicated left turn onto northbound Plainfield, mast arms, LED lenses, and UPS (un-interrupted power source); the Plainfield/Georgetown improvements include a dedicated left turn signal, LED lenses, crosswalk, pedestrian walk/wait lights, and handicapped ramps; and the Plainfield/Ronald Reagan Highway improvements include LED lenses, crosswalks, pedestrian walk/wait lights, and pedestrian ramps.



▶ USE OF THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT DUMPSTERS FOR TRASH/BRUSH DROP OFF

Residents continue to take advantage of the free service to utilize the dumpsters at the Service garage for **disposal of trash and brush**. This is an extremely convenient service for those times when disposal of such items is necessary on a day other than the residents' regular garbage pickup. In 2006, these dumpsters were utilized nearly 1,600 times by residents. Residents are required to sign in at the office and provide proof of residency before being allowed access to the dumpsters.

TRASH/BRUSH DROP-OFF PROGRAM



QUARTERLY USAGE - 2006

▶ OTHER PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

- The Service Department oversees the City's single largest contract: the **solid waste contract**. Beginning in March 2006, the City began year one in the five-year contract period with Rumpke. In 2006, Rumpke picked up and disposed of 4,416 tons of residential solid waste, and 72,000 lineal cubic yards of selected business and commercial trash.
- Blue Ash participates as a member of the Hamilton County Storm



Water District. Efforts relating to **storm water management** include Department personnel spending 534 hours sweeping 225 lane miles of street, 242 hours installing 138 lineal feet of new storm sewer lines and constructing seven new catch basins, and 2,609 hours repairing 53 catch basins, maintaining 1,431 feet of storm sewer line, and inspecting and cleaning 3,014 catch basins.

- **Fleet maintenance** activities by the Service Department were expanded in 2006 to include providing assistance to the Fire Department in maintenance of

their vehicles, including the pumpers and aerial ladders; to the Economic & Community Development office; and for some Administration vehicles. It is possible in 2007 that some servicing and minor repairs for the Police Department will also be performed by Service crews.

- Major **equipment purchases** in 2006 included two 1.5 ton pickup trucks, a one-ton truck, an upgrade to the low-band radio transmitter, and a new dump body.

Blue Ash continued its tradition of offering an abundance of quality recreational programs and facilities throughout 2006 as the Recreation Center experienced another busy year. An estimated 207,500 persons utilized the Recreation Center in some fashion (including classes, etc.), with 133,821 members checking in to utilize the fitness

center, pool, & other facilities. The picnic shelters experienced extremely heavy usage with approximately 19,000 patrons using the shelters throughout the year. A total of 184 teams, or 1,332 players, participated in 24 adult sports leagues in basketball, volleyball, softball, racquetball, and ultimate frisbee. Overall, the Recreation

Center stayed within the budget for expenditures and exceeded projected revenues in racquetball fees, recreation memberships, admissions, recreation and sports center concessions, and tot room fees.



▶ FITNESS HIGHLIGHTS

- Two new ellipticals and two new treadmills were added to the cardio equipment inventory.
- 15 new selectorized weight pieces, to replace outdated equipment, have been very well received by center users, especially in regards to their "user friendly" characteristics.
- Free weights, benches, and area mats were added and several plate-loaded pieces were replaced.
- Participation in various incentive and fitness programs increased 43% over 2005 levels.
- A new "healthy kids" program was offered for 13 to 15 year olds with 16 completing the program.



▶ POOL HIGHLIGHTS

The pool's operating hours returned to those offered in 2004, essentially remaining open until 9PM. The pool was open 89 days this summer, and the estimated total attendance was 45,000. Members brought over 10,500 guests to the pool -- an indication of resident pride in their municipal facility! The swim lesson program remained strong throughout the summer, with 487 participating. The pool staff had another strong showing in the Red Cross Regional Lifeguard Olympics, and qualified a number of teams for the State competition. The early morning lap fitness swim program continued to be popular, and the City continued to support the Sycamore District by allowing the Sycamore Flying Fish and boys and girls water polo teams to use the facility for practice.

Special activities at the pool continued through the summer, including regular evening pool-side grill outs and various family-oriented pool events such as a family moonlight swim and several pool-side movie opportunities. Info on the Dog Day at the Pool event can be found in the Special Events section of this report.

▶ TENNIS

Highlights from the 2006 tennis season include:

- 2006 was the first year the Facility Booking system was used to take and track tennis reservations.
- High-quality tennis instruction was offered for all ages.
- Youth and “pee wee” tennis camps continued to be popular, as well as a variety of leagues and clinics.
- Tournaments in June and July were offered.
- Participation and revenue in adult and youth camps and clinics increased 60% over 2005 levels. This reflects the well-established programs and staff consistency.
- The Blue Ash courts continued to serve as the home court for both the Moeller and Ursuline Tennis teams.



▶ CONCESSIONS

The **Rec Center** and **Amphitheatre** concessions generated over \$75,000. Special offerings, such as Restaurant Wednesday at the pool; the introduction of healthier options, such as yogurt smoothies and fruit as well as the Extra Smart Energy Cart to service the lunchtime Rec Center patrons, were popular.

The **Sports Center** concessions generated nearly \$69,000, and included the operation of a satellite concession cart offering convenience for patrons at the outer fields.

The **Sandtrap**, including use of the new point-of-sale terminal, generated over \$127,000 in revenues, including 30 outings serving over 1,500 guests generating over \$20,000 in revenue.

▶ REC CENTER PROGRAMMING

Highlights of Blue Ash’s year-round quality recreational programming in 2006 include:

- We offered a new line of retail items that include fun graphics & the Center’s new slogan, “Life with a Recess.”
- The summer camp programs continue to be popular, & three new camp counselors were hired.
- A quarterly summer camp newsletter was started, with the goal being to keep camp enthusiasm up year-round and to help retain campers (and siblings) in subsequent years.
- New “Friday Night Flicks” program for children 6-12 years old proved to be popular.
- New classes in Spinning and “StrollerFit” were offered and well received by patrons.
- The popular Martial Arts classes continued, including Tai Chi, Okinawan Karate, and Taekwondo.
- An instructor appreciation luncheon was held to thank instructors for their dedication and hard work.
- 1,069 participated in the 4th annual Ladies Distance Classic in August - an increase of over 93% from 2005!
- The popular “Young Rembrandt’s” children’s art classes offered a variety of year-round drawing and other art-related opportunities.
- Swimming lessons continue to be a popular offering, with 487 people taking lessons this year at the Center.



▶ HAZELWOOD

The Hazelwood Civic Center continued its operation throughout the year. The Center’s affiliation with the non-profit Operation Giveback continued, including its afternoon tutoring sessions where their representatives pick up the children at the Center and transport them to their nearby Blue Ash location on Williamson Road for tutoring assistance. The Center’s staff, along with some Rec Center staff, also offered a week-long summer reading program which included special readings, crafts, snacks, and exercise. Other regular activities at the Center include the reading hour on Thursdays, ping pong, and small games for all ages. During the school year, the Center is open weekdays from 4 to 6PM and on Saturdays from Noon - 6PM. When school is not in session, the Center is open limited weekdays 1 to 8PM and Saturdays from Noon to 6PM.

Year-round special events were continued in quality fashion in 2006. Though these events are coordinated by Recreation Department staff, none could happen without the substantial assistance and support received from ALL de-

partments throughout the City. The City's special events are exemplary of the City's true team spirit as they demonstrate all divisions and departments of the City working together to make things happen.

Sponsorships are crucial to virtually all the City's special events, and in 2006, partnerships were maintained with those established in 2005. Over \$270,000 in sponsorship revenues were secured in 2006.

► SUMMERBRATION ...

SummerBratton 2006 was held the weekend of June 2nd through 4th in downtown Blue Ash. This growing event had an estimated attendance of 75,000, and in addition to local entertainment on two stages, featured national country artists Chris Cagle (pictured below left), Jo Dee Messina (below center), and Billy Currington (below right) on the Towne Square stage each evening of the event. The event featured barbecue fare and related contests, as well as festival type rides and other family entertainment.



► RED, WHITE & BLUE ASH ...



The Red, White & Blue Ash July 4th celebration took place this year on a Tuesday and was again held at the Sports Center. Entertainment included a regional band, Second Helping (a Lynyrd Skynyrd tribute), in late afternoon and national level band Toto in the evening. A family fun area was also offered including festival rides, roaming entertainment, and other fun family activities. Though the weather was somewhat gloomy and rainy, the event attracted an estimated 75,000 on the Sports Center grounds. This estimate does not include those in peripheral areas enjoying the region's best fireworks display.



TASTE OF BLUE ASH ... OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS

► TASTE OF BLUE ASH

The Taste, the City's largest annual event and the 21st annual in 2006, took place the weekend of August 25th through 27th in downtown Blue Ash. An estimated 175,000 enjoyed the food offered by 20 restaurants, half from Blue Ash. Free national entertainment again was continued each day of the event, featuring The Pointer Sisters on Friday; Survivor and Loverboy on Saturday; and popular national country artists Little Texas (bottom right), Emerson Drive (lower left), and Trick Pony (upper right) on Sunday. A family fun area and family stage also offered a variety of music, activities, and rides entertaining a host of ages throughout the weekend at this major regional event. The "Best of Taste" competition, held earlier in the month, featured 15 of the 20 restaurants.



► OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS

Though SummerBration, July 4th, and the Taste are Blue Ash's largest special events, they certainly do not represent all that is offered. Some examples of the other events offered in 2006 include:

Summer Concerts Series: The Tuesday evening Concerts in the Park and Friday evening Concerts on the Square series were offered throughout the summer months, with attendance estimated at 36,000. A new Friday evening break-time show was added, including a professionally produced video entertaining those in attendance. The relatively new Thursday Lunch concerts in September also grew in attendance.

Baseball Festival: Held in early April at the Sports Center, this event featured baseball contests and clinics. Former Cincinnati Reds player George Foster participated and signed autographs.

Dog Day at the Pool - the 5th annual Dog Day took place on Saturday, Sept. 9th, with over 350 dogs and 560 people in attendance. Fourteen dog-oriented vendors were featured, and several fun contests were held.

Heritage Day & Dedication of the Hunt House: Saturday, October 14th, marked the day for this year's Heritage Day activity, featuring the added attraction of the formal dedication of the City's historic Hunt House. See the Facilities Maintenance section of this report for more information about this project.

Halloween Walk in the Woods: This annual event, another community favorite, attracted about 500 and featured trick-or-treat and other Halloween activities geared for the younger set.



► GOLF PROGRAMMING

Blue Ash's award-winning, nationally-recognized championship Golf Course had another successful season in 2006 -- the Course's 28th full season. Golf rounds of nearly 37,500 remained relatively even with 2005 levels, though revenues from golf operations increased 4% as prices were increased slightly, the first increase in six years. Revenues from golf food and beverage operations were comparable to those in 2005. One additional major golf outing took place at the course in 2006.

Technology updates, point-of-service computer/cash registers in both the Pro Shop and the Sandtrap Sandwich Shoppe, were implemented and made management of golf and food service operations much more efficient for customers as well as employees.

Work was also completed, and presented to Council, to lay the ground work for the eventual new clubhouse to be constructed as a result of the passage of Issue 15. Golf employees are extremely excited about the Course's future and are looking forward to the planned improvements in coming years.

Those include the new multi-purpose Clubhouse with expanded banquet, meeting, and food and beverage operations; other near future golf improvements such as upgrades to the irrigation system and golf paths, and the relocation of two holes on the east side of Plainfield to allow for development of a driving range. See the "Other Special Projects" section of this report for more information on the future improvements to the Golf Course.



► GOLF MAINTENANCE

The Golf Maintenance Division also had another productive year in 2006. The first phase of the automated irrigation system improvement, OSMAC, was installed, representing an upgrade from the former system. The second and final phase of that project is scheduled for the first quarter of 2007. Additional capital projects completed in 2006 include the replacement of the rain shelters on Holes #11 and #6, construction of a new storage pole building to house larger grounds equipment, construction of an interlocking wall on Hole #2, removal of trees on Hole #1 and other areas on the course, and drainage projects on Holes #12 and #14.



▶ PARKS MAINTENANCE

The Parks & Grounds Maintenance Division of the Parks & Recreation Department is responsible for maintenance of all public City-owned grounds with the exception of the Golf Course. A highlight of 2006 for this Division was the renovation and actual relocation to its new facilities at 6171 Interstate Circle, adjacent to the City's Service Department facilities. Other highlights and accomplishments of the Division in 2006 include:



- Preparation and maintenance of the property at the City's historic Hunt House, preparing for its opening in October. The Division also created a replica of the house, which was used as a float in the annual Memorial Day Parade. More information about the historic Hunt House project, which involved multiple City departments and divisions, can be found later in this report within the Facilities Maintenance section.
- Removal of poles and wall planters in the downtown area in preparation for a new streetscaping theme to be developed in 2007.
- Installation of dugout fencing and safety netting, replacement of the Crosley Field lights, hosting of a major baseball festival in April, and a major Memorial Day weekend baseball tournament.



▶ ENHANCED DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY LIGHTING

As is the case with several of the City's projects and functions noted throughout this report, the planning and process of holiday lighting and decorations in Downtown Blue Ash involves multiple divisions of the City, particularly the staffs of the



Parks Maintenance, Recreation Center, and Facilities Maintenance divisions. Lighting in downtown in 2006 was redesigned, and it was extremely well received by visitors and residents.

▶ RONALD REAGAN HIGHWAY ACCESS RAMP SIGNAGE

Yet another project involving multiple City divisions and departments was the installation of a new decorative brick wall and sign at the Kenwood Road/Blue Ash Road exit ramp from Ronald Reagan Highway. The sign provides a welcome to motorists and touts the City's new "Aspire. Achieve. Advance" logo. The sign project was overseen by Blue Ash's Project Management staff and was installed in cooperation with Hills Development, the private office developer of the adjacent property within the Downtown district.



Much progress was made in the economic development arena in 2006. Steps forward to retain and recruit new investment in Blue Ash were made as it is imperative that Blue Ash remains top of mind as a dynamic, premier, and progressive destination for existing and

prospective businesses. Community Development efforts also moved forward, with focus on property maintenance continuing.

This page and the next two pages summarize major highlights in this area.

► BRANDING INITIATIVE:

Economic Development Plan & Brand identity ...

The brand identity and tagline were finalized in early 2006 after weeks of research, interviews and surveys. The brand has been implemented throughout all departments of the City upon letterhead, business cards, publications, vehicles, and signage. The Economic Development team began implementing the recommendations outlined in the Economic Development Plan which included the branding initiative and economic development oriented website.



BlueAshAdvance.Com Website ...

At the October 13th Council meeting, the city's economic development website, BlueAshAdvance.com, was launched. Since most site searches begin on-line, the website provides an impressive introduction to our community and offers pertinent information including amenities maps, relocation information, workforce data, and testimonials. One special feature is the GIS site selector section that enables prospects to list their criteria for a building, and the appropriate Blue Ash properties are provided quickly. These features and more allow our economic and community development services to be available 24 hours a day.



Business Newsletter ...

The first two issues of Blue Ash Advance newsletter were delivered to local businesses, economic development practitioners, and real estate professionals in August and November. This publication is one more vehicle the economic development team can use to promote Blue Ash as a place that is moving forward.

► ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Business "Blitz" ...

The first Blue Ash Business Blitz Week was March 27 - 31st. Since research has indicated that over 65-80% of new jobs are created through the expansion of existing firms, this initiative assists the City on developing strong relationships with current companies. It also serves as an "early warning" system to detect at risk companies. Over time, the information gathered from these sessions will provide insight for ways the City can become more competitive and uncover barriers to expanding in Blue Ash. Ten City personnel, representing all City departments, were trained in how to conduct these sessions, and during the blitz week, met 42 local business leaders.



Business Luncheons ...

The Economic Development Team coordinated two Business Appreciation lunches and a reception for our local businesses. These events, which will continue in 2007, extend goodwill and the City's gratitude for the invited businesses' continued investment in Blue Ash.

Cincinnati USA Partnership ... Blue Ash selected Cincinnati Eye Institute (CEI) as the recipient of the Cincinnati USA Partnership Growth Award program (the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Division). Blue Ash was pleased to recognize and congratulate CEI on their decision to invest \$20 million in their new Blue Ash headquarters. Along with this investment, CEI plans to move 240 jobs to their new state-of-the-art medical facility. Blue Ash also participated in several business development missions with the Partnership to promote the region and community to site selection professionals in New York, Tucson, and Chicago.



► COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

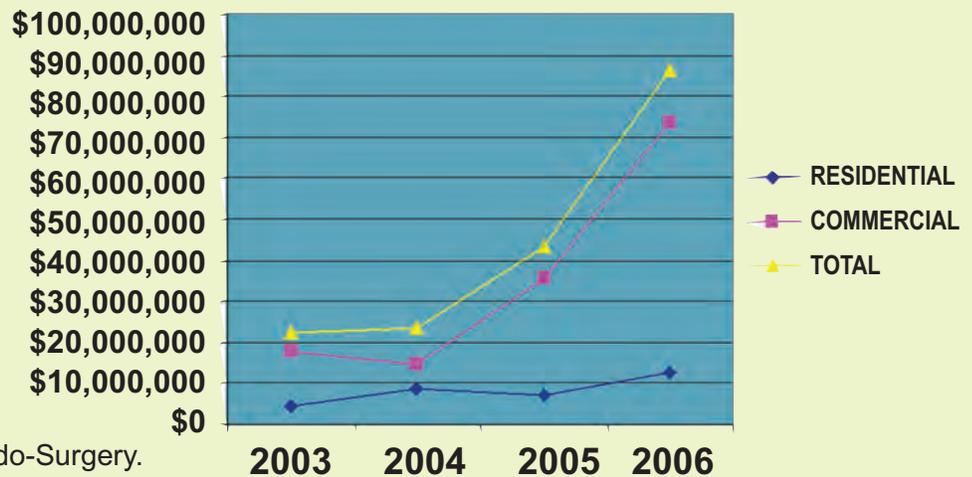
Development Information On-line ... A wealth of information has been written and uploaded to the Development portion of the BlueAshAdvance.com website to help residents, contractors, and developers understand the development and building regulations in Blue Ash.

Downtown ... Council adopted the **Blue Ash Town Center Concept Redevelopment Plan** in May. The City then worked with a zoning consultant to develop Code amendments to the Downtown zoning district that will help implement the concepts contained in the Plan, including establishing the Downtown area as a more pedestrian-oriented, higher-density urban environment, rather than the auto-oriented, suburban environment that exists today. Council adopted the Code amendments in December, which will become effective early in 2007.

Building Permit Activity ...

In 2006, there were 177 residential and 435 commercial permits issued for estimated construction value of \$86,323,414. In 2005, there were 520 permits with estimated valued of \$43,216,721. The construction values have steadily increased over the past five years and dramatically increased in the past two years due to new construction and expansion projects which include The Landings of Blue Ash, Park Manor, Cincinnati Eye Institute, Toyota, and Ethicon Endo-Surgery.

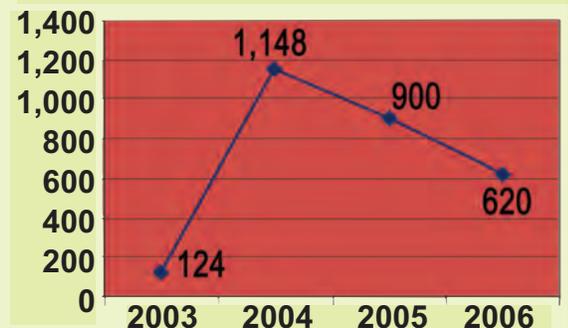
BUILDING VALUE - 2003 - 2006



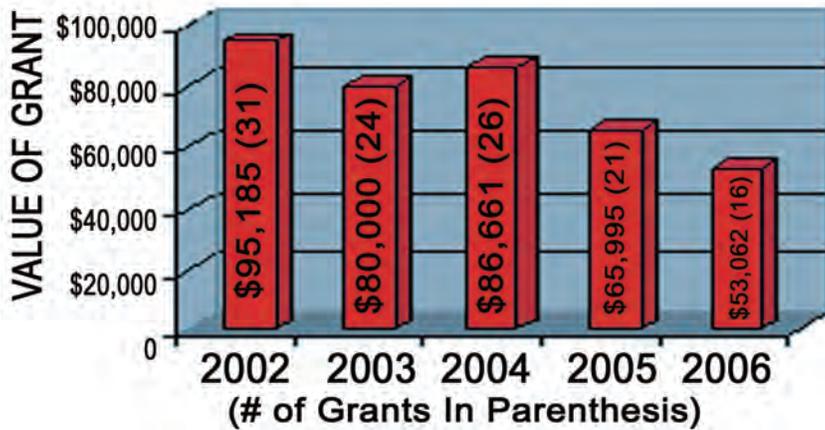
Development and Enforcement ... In spring of 2006, Council adopted Code amendments to address infill residential construction relative to setbacks and elevations. The Community Development office also implemented administrative changes to more closely monitor and regulate the effects of such development on existing properties. Developers and builders must now plan better for stormwater management, site inspections are required, and final occupancy is contingent upon effectively implementing the approved plans.

In 2004, the City began to aggressively address property code violations through its contract with National Inspection Corporation (NIC). As can be seen in the chart, there was a dramatic increase between 2003 and 2004 in cases managed. Each year since, the number of cases has decreased as the program has addressed most obvious code violations.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CASES



DEVELOPMENT AND ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION (continued)



Home Repair Assistance Program (HRAP) ... In 2006, there were 16 HRAP grants awarded totaling \$53,062. This program continues to be a viable program that enables the City to provide assistance for qualifying homeowners who desire to keep their property attractive but require assistance. The chart to the left shows the trends over the past five years.

▶ 2006 EXPANSION / ATTRACTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Blue Ash was pleased **Kroger** plans to move 500 employees to a 220,000 sq. ft. facility at 11450 Grooms Road previously owned by P & G. This \$3.9 million investment will enable Kroger to house their information systems division and other departments in one location.



- The \$10 million **Wornick** expansion project moved forward and is expected to create 225 jobs and retain another 544 in Blue Ash. The Economic Development office coordinated efforts with the State of Ohio to offer an incentive package for them to stay in Blue Ash. On March 27th, the State of Ohio offered Wornick a 40%, six-year credit worth \$234,000.



- MVD Communications**, a provider of voice and data networks for businesses, intends to expand their employee base by at least 25 employees over the next three years. In 2005, MVD moved their headquarters to Cornell Park Drive from Loveland, Ohio. The firm has 85 employees, 55 employees based in Blue Ash and the remainder in their Indiana, Nebraska and Florida offices. Ohio granted MVD \$135,000 worth of incentives over the next seven years.



- Cincinnati Eye Institute** held its grand opening in November with over 500 attendees touring the new 120,000 square foot facility. CEI is the largest ophthalmic practice in the country and has 300 employees, including 45 doctors.



- Citigroup** announced at a July press conference that it was locating its North American IT division in Blue Ash. The state-of-the-art training center, opened in October, will eventually house up to 1,000 technology professionals.



Considering both the direct and indirect effects, this facility is expected to generate 3,456 jobs in the region.

- Hilton Garden Hotel** officials started developing the 170 room, 70,000 sq. ft. facility on Cornell Road in late 2006.

- Toyota Motor Sales** added a 17,000 square foot training facility to their Creek Road facility. Valued at \$4.5 million, the new addition will accommodate approximately 800 technicians who will come to the site for training each year



- Camargo Pharmaceuticals** tripled their square footage to 26,000 to accommodate their rapid growth.



- The **Park Manor** residential project is underway at the corner of Monroe and Cooper near downtown. The development will have 42 upscale landominiums that will range from 3,200 to 3,400 square feet.



Human Resources

In addition to the routine internal support functions performed by the HR office on a daily basis, the following offers a summary of 2006 accomplishments:

- One **Civil Service promotional** process took place in the spring for Fire Lieutenant in order to fill two vacancies: one due to a promotion to Captain, and the other due to a resignation. Former Firefighter/Paramedics Janet Dreyer and John Hale received those promotions in February and December respectively.
- One **Civil Service hiring** process took place during 2006 for Patrol officer. There were two vacancies during 2006: one due to resignation and one due to creation of a new position.
- Employee medical, dental, optical and life **insurance** contracts were

renewed in 2006. The medical insurance contract was renewed with Humana at a 14% cost increase. The dental contract was renewed at a relatively low 4% increase, and both optical and life insurance contracts resulted in no increase.

- The two major supervisory **trainings** that took place in 2006 were “Communications Training in Generational Differences in the Work Place” and “Transition Back to Work Program.”
- 2006 **Union activity** included the finalization in March of the FOP Dispatcher’s contract; the start of negotiations for the AFSCME (Service Department) and FOP (Police Patrol) contracts; and the negotiation of the FOP Sergeants contract, expected to go before Council for final approval in January 2007.

- **Employee Appreciation** activities included the Summer luncheon and outing in July (including the opportunity for golf, fishing, cornhole, and other activities) and the holiday luncheon in December (see photos).
- Other events planned to benefit employees in all departments included the first annual **Health Fair** organized by the **Health and Wellness Committee**. The Committee also produced a regular health and wellness related newsletter distributed internally for employee benefit.
- A **Safety Committee** was organized to include representation from each department. This committee meets quarterly.



The “Supervisor Pie in the Face” contest at the December employee holiday function was a hit amongst the employee group. The contest raised over \$1,100, and those funds were used to create military care packages sent to military personnel serving overseas. The photo below left was sent along with each of those ten care packages mailed. Employees also contributed generously and purchased hundreds of dollars worth of gifts for a needy Blue Ash family “adopted” during the holiday season.



The employee outing & luncheon in July offers a variety of activities such as golf, cornhole, etc. -- in addition to lunch and is enjoyed by many.



Technology Office

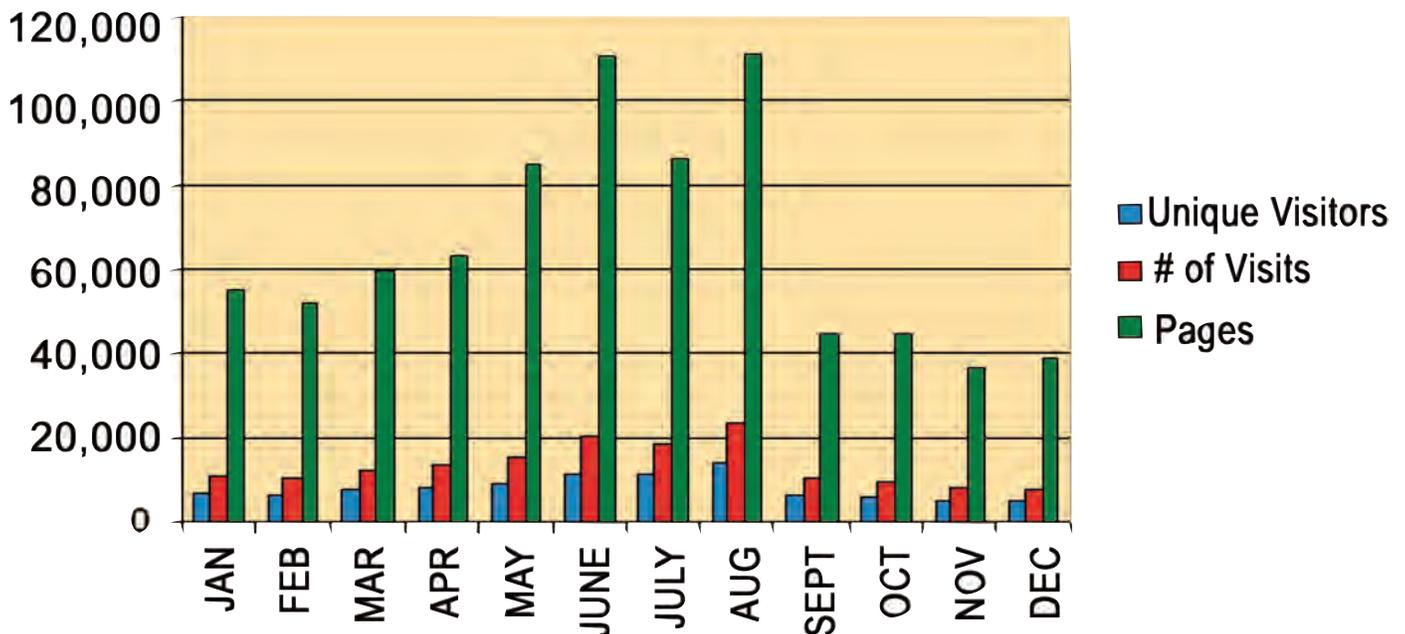
The Technology Office is responsible for maintaining and monitoring the City's technology for all City departments and divisions. This includes computers, copiers, faxes, telephone systems, cell phones, internal and external websites, and more. In 2006, the Technology Office was staffed by one full-time employee, the Technology Officer, with periodic part-time assistance provided.

The following offers a summary of 2006 accomplishments not described further on these pages:

- Upgraded 20 computers, replaced 19 computers, and replaced 35 monitors with LCD monitors.
- Upgraded the City's cable channel software and hardware.
- Upgraded E-mail and data storage to accommodate continued growth.
- Installed staff wireless access for the Fire Department, Administration, and Parks & Recreation.
- Installed new LCD projection systems in two conference rooms.
- Installed new vehicle maintenance database for the Service Department.
- Upgraded the Recreation Center database.

► CITY'S GENERAL WEBSITE: BlueAsh.Com

Some interesting statistics can be seen in the chart below associated with the City's general website BlueAsh.com.



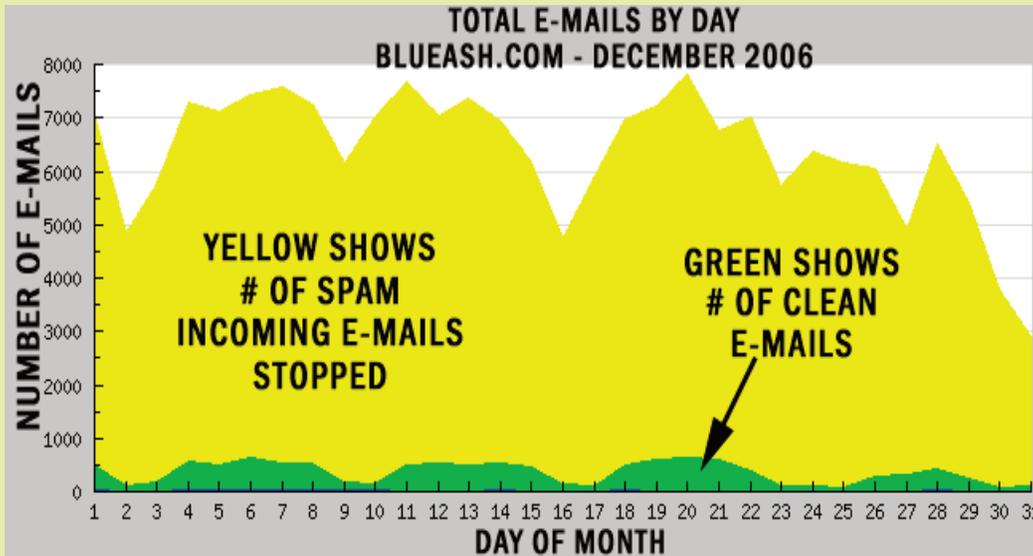
The **Unique Visitors** stat, with monthly ranges between 4,798 in December to a high of 13,789 in August, tells us how many different people came to visit the BlueAsh.com website. The higher numbers for June, July and August seem logical as the site is being frequented to check out the City's special events, concerts, and other recreational offerings.

The **Number of visits** stat, with monthly ranges between 7,509 in December to a high of 23,536 in August, stat tells us how many times the site was visited, which could count the same visitor multiple times.



The **Pages** stat, with monthly ranges from 36,350 in November to a high of 111,101 in August, indicates how many different parts of the website were visited once logged into the site. Comparing the Unique Visitors statistics with the Pages statistics could favorably indicate that once people are logged in, they do tend to browse multiple pages of the site.

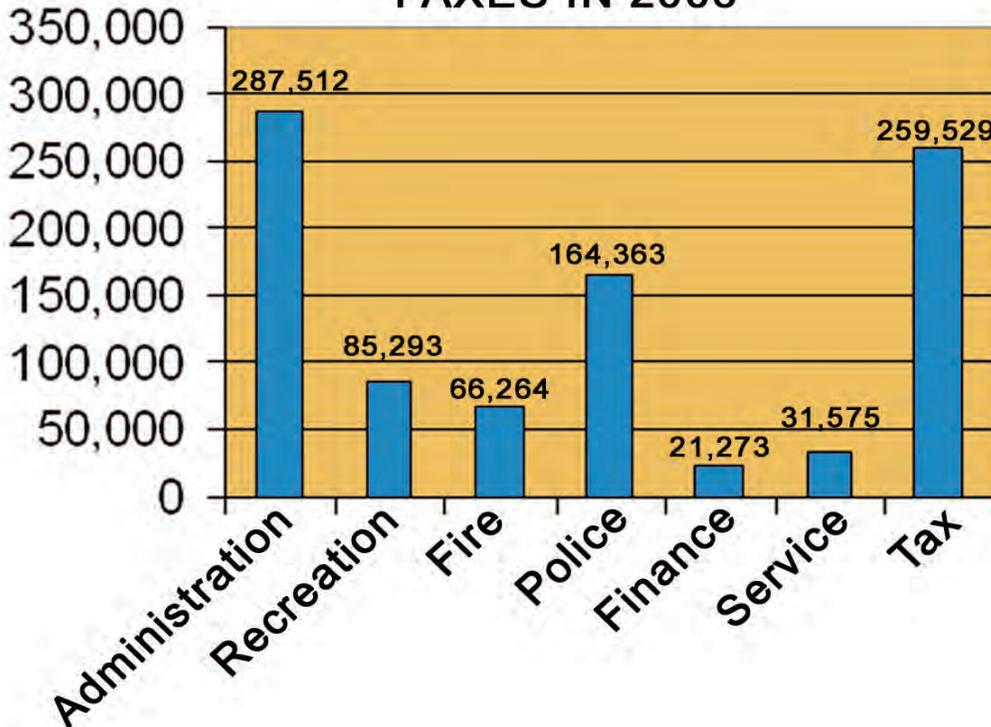
TECHNOLOGY (continued)



► E-MAIL

The City has approximately 225 E-mail accounts maintained by the Technology Officer, and the spam software, which the City has been successfully using for approximately three years, has eliminated an average of between 6,000 and 7,000 E-mails EACH DAY from reaching user’s In Boxes.

OF COPIES & FAXES IN 2006



► PRINTERS, FAXES, AND PHOTOCOPIERS

This chart shows the number of photocopies, printing, and faxing that is performed on the City’s in-house equipment. A total of nearly 916,000, including all departments and divisions, were either printed, faxed, or photocopied.

The Facilities Maintenance crews are responsible for the routine, day-to-day maintenance of all City-owned facilities affecting all departments of the City. In 2006, the Division had eight full-time employees and \pm 18 part-time employees. Several of these part-time employees work just a few hours each week.

In 2006, the Facilities crews responded to over 1,100 scheduled and unscheduled maintenance requests City-wide, while performing their normal preventative maintenance tasks. Examples of such work include preventative maintenance tasks; monthly checks; annual opening and closing of all parks, restrooms, concessions, pools, and fountains; and assistance at all special events sponsored by the City, including the summertime concerts and other recreational programs and events.

Extra effort in 2006 was expended towards identifying and implementing cost savings measures to comply with the budget funding allocated. Those goals were accomplished within the budget constraints while successfully maintaining quality of service.

In addition to these responsibilities, the following offers a summary of other 2006 accomplishments of the Facilities Maintenance Division:

Municipal & Safety Center (East Wing): The Facilities crews renovated and updated the Tax Offices by removing some walls and reorganizing the office spaces within the area. These office improvements have since been enjoyed daily by the tax staff. Also in the Municipal & Safety Center, new handicapped-accessible automatic doors were installed, the gutters were replaced, and the roof was repaired.

Towne Square: A new projection system at the Towne Square stage was installed. This allowed the debut of the break-time shows during the City's popular summertime Concerts on the Square series. The break-time not only entertained the audience, but informed them of current issues and about the City in general.



Nature Park: The Facilities crews renovated the main pedestrian bridge near the main parking area. This bridge was installed when the park opened in 1989.

Recreation Center: Facilities crews installed new handicapped-accessible automatic doors at the Rec Center and also replaced an aging HVAC control system.

Fire Department: The Facilities crews installed a new County and 9-1-1 public address system at the South Fire Station and continued to address and resolve maintenance issues at the newer North Fire Station.

Police Department: The Facilities crews updated the flooring and counters in the Police Armory and Evidence Processing Room.

Meeting Set-Up and Tear-Down: The janitorial staff set up and broke down over 470 meetings held just at the Recreation Center in 2006, including larger special events such as the St. Patrick's and Fall dances as well as the Veterans Day luncheon held in the Rec Center gym.

► **Hunt House Renovation ...** Much of the work associated with the Hunt House renovation was performed in-house by the Facilities Maintenance staff, including the electrical requirements for the renovation. It must be noted though that this special project is another clear example of a **TEAM** effort involving multiple City departments and divisions. Staff representing Project Management (who oversaw the project), the Recreation Center, and Parks Maintenance areas all provided key services to assure the project's successful and timely completion.

The historic Hunt House was opened for the first time to the public during the Heritage Day event, Saturday, October 14th. Approximately 450 toured the historic home throughout the day. Visitors were transported to and from the Nature Park (where the Heritage Day event was centered) by horse-drawn carriages and hay rides. Many compliments were received on the City's efforts to restore the home's first level to its 1890's era. The City's Sister City delegation from Ilmenau, Germany, were also in town for the home's dedication, with the Oberbuergemeister assisting with the formal ribbon cutting.



Other Special 2006 Projects

Other Team Projects

▶ RETIREMENT OF LONG-TIME CITY MANAGER

June 30, 2006 was the last day of work for Blue Ash's long-time City Manager, Marvin D. Thompson, who retired from Blue Ash effective July 1st.

Mr. Thompson served as Blue Ash's City Manager since July 1981, and had 33 years of service total with Blue Ash. Throughout his years at Blue Ash, Mr. Thompson conveyed a strong vision for Blue Ash's future, giving Blue Ash a clear sense of direction. He has earned the trust and confidence of multiple City Councils through his obvious commitment, competence, and devotion to Blue Ash throughout his 33 year career.

A public reception/open house for Mr. Thompson was held on June 8th, prior to his last regularly scheduled Council meeting. Over 175 people stopped in to wish Mr. Thompson their congratulations and their best for many happy and healthy years in his retirement (see photos). Two large scrapbooks were created for Mr. Thompson by his colleagues, containing many well-wishes and pictures from his many friends and business associates over the years.



▶ APPOINTMENT OF A NEW CITY MANAGER

With the retirement of Mr. Thompson at the end of June, Council appointed David Waltz as Blue Ash's City Manager effective July 1st. Mr. Waltz was formally sworn into office at the July 13th City Council meeting. Mr. Waltz had been serving as Blue Ash's Assistant City Manager since September 2003 after serving as Silverton's first City Manager for about four years and as Executive Director of the Shelby County Regional Planning Commission for nine years.

Pictured is Mayor Buckman administering the Oath of Office to David. Also shown are David's wife, Susan, and children, Dusty & Allen.



▶ SISTER CITY

A delegation from Blue Ash's Sister City, Ilmenau, Germany, visited Blue Ash from Oct. 5th - 15th. Seventeen people comprised the delegation, including reps from Ilmenau Council and City Hall, including the Oberbürgermeister; from Ilmenau Technical University (ITU); and from the Ilmenau business community. The visit was a success as relationships were strengthened between the two cities, between Raymond Walters College (RWC) and ITU, and among area high schools and the joint vocational school district. The delegation enjoyed the regional Tall Stacks celebration in Cincinnati, as well as local Blue Ash events, including the dedication of the historic Hunt House. The delegation also participated in several business and networking activities during their visit, including

a tour of the Zimmer Power Plant in Moscow, Ohio; tours of several other Blue Ash area businesses; and a visit to Columbus to learn about State government.

Progress also occurred in 2006 with the relationship between the two colleges. A teacher/student group from ITU visited Blue Ash and the Greater Cincinnati area in August. A student/teacher group from RWC is planning a visit to Ilmenau in August 2007. The goal for cultural exchange residents of the two communities also moved forward in 2006 as a tour group from the Cincinnati area, including residents of Blue Ash, visited Germany, including several days in Ilmenau.



Pictured left to right: visit to Great Oaks, placement of a wreath by Ilmenau reps on the Veterans Memorial, introductory comments at the business reception, & a visit to the AFB museum in Dayton.

MORE SPECIAL PROJECTS (continued)

PASSAGE OF ISSUE 15 - Amending the City Charter

After nearly 20 years of informal discussions, the Cities of Blue Ash and Cincinnati finally reached an agreement regarding the future of the Blue Ash Airport property. The approximate 228-acre Airport is owned and operated by the City of Cincinnati; however, it is located in the City of Blue Ash.

In 2006, both Blue Ash and Cincinnati Councils approved a contract in which Blue Ash would purchase a portion of the Airport property for

park development. A contingency associated with that contract was approval by Blue Ash voters of Issue 15, which appeared on the November 6th General Election ballot. Issue 15 essentially asked voters to amend the City's Charter to allow the current 1.0% earnings tax to be increased to 1.25% effective January 1, 2007. Much effort was put forth throughout the summer months by staff representing multiple City departments and divisions, as well as members of City

Council, to educate the public on this important issue for our community. Many opportunities for public input and discussion were offered, including many open houses, booths at the City's special events, several direct mailings to residents, and constant information on the City's website and cable access channel. Voters overwhelmingly approved Issue 15 as the vote was approximately 66% "yes" and 34% "no."

► THE ISSUE 15 PLAN ...

The overall plan associated with the passage of Issue 15, as was conveyed to Blue Ash citizens throughout the summer and fall months, was essentially three-pronged. The City conveyed that the revenues associated with Issue 15 if approved by voters would be targeted for the following:

- The City's development of an approximate 130 acre park on a portion of the Airport property. The City would also work diligently with the City of Cincinnati to do all it could to assure that the airport would remain operational on re-

duced acreage -- about 98 acres of the current airport property, with improved airport facilities to be located on the south side of the existing runway.

- The City would move forward with improvements to the Recreation Center, including the construction of a two-story addition. This project has been considered for recent past years; however, it has not been possible to move forward with this project prior to the passage of Issue 15 because of funding issues.

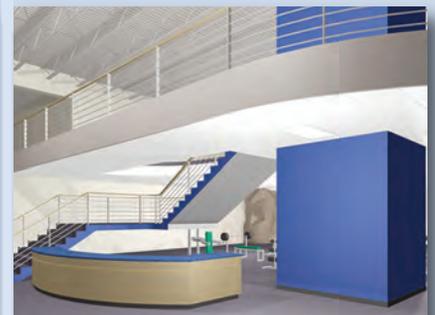
- The City would move forward with improvements to the Golf Course, including the construction of a new multi-purpose clubhouse and banquet facility and other Course improvements including a driving range. In order to allow room for a driving range, it is likely that two existing Course holes would be relocated on the airport park property on the east side of Plainfield Road, with a driving range then possible on Course property on the west side of Plainfield.



Architect's rendering of a new Golf Course clubhouse.



Architectural images of concepts for the Recreation Center expansion, to include a new two-story addition.



Issue 15 information continued on next page.

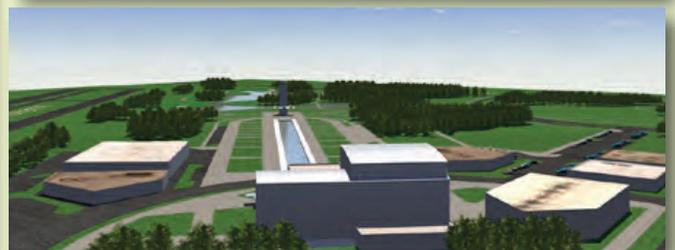
► **THE AIRPORT PARK CONCEPT ...**

The 130-acre park to be developed by the City would be located on the triangle-shaped property bound by Plainfield Road to the west, Reed Hartman to the east, and Glendale-Milford to the north. The park will be developed by Blue Ash as a first-class Central Park-like facility, providing green space and recreation amenities for residents and businesses. Potential concepts for the park include the following:

- About 2.5 miles of multi-purpose trails for jogging, walking, etc.
- Several lakes, gardens, lawn areas, and woodland areas.
- A Performing Arts & Conference Center (PACC).
- Space for the Ultimate Sacrifice World War II memorial, including the “My Gal Sal” B-17 restoration, etc.

- An observatory tower and bandstand.
- A limited “main street” retail and dining area, perhaps similar to New York’s Tavern on the Green.
- A pedestrian and family gathering “municipal mall” (not a retail mall), including a reflecting pool.
- Two golf course holes to be relocated from the existing Course, allowing the addition of a driving range on the existing Course property west of Plainfield.

The City of Cincinnati has three years, plus two one-year extensions if warranted, to relocate and reconfigure the airport facilities. Since park development by Blue Ash cannot occur until the airport is reconfigured, in the near future years, Blue Ash will move forward on the Recreation Center expansion and Golf Course projects.



Pictured above are three conceptual images of the future airport park. The upper right image is looking to the north-east, with the observation tower and municipal mall in the foreground. The lower right image is looking to the south-west, with the Performing Arts & Conference Center shown in the foreground. All images by Architechnology.



An architect's rendering of the Performing Arts & Conference Center. Rendering by Steed Hammond Paul.

BLUE ASH TEAM VISION STATEMENT

WE WILL CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF COMMUNITY LIFE FOR ALL RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS CITIZENS TO ENSURE BLUE ASH IS ALWAYS THE "CITY OF CHOICE" THROUGH AN ENLIGHTENED, EFFICIENT, AND DYNAMIC UNIFIED MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

BLUE ASH TEAM MISSION STATEMENT

TO PROVIDE SUPERIOR SERVICES, FACILITIES, AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL CITIZENS UTILIZING KEY GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF INTEGRITY, COMPASSION, INNOVATION, PROFESSIONALISM, AND COMMITMENT.



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CITY OF BLUE ASH

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