

## SPRING 2015 NEWSLETTER

### PERFORMANCE STAGE, COMMUNITY BUILDING, GLASS CANOPY CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT SUMMIT PARK

Despite the cold, snowy winter Blue Ash has endured, Summit Park continues to be a popular Blue Ash amenity. The success of the award-winning Children's Playground within the 130-acre park continues to draw in families from around the region, even throughout the winter months. The three-acre Great Lawn combined with a quarter-mile walking path, two pergolas, family restrooms, and event-friendly infrastructure complement the new public space. Another new amenity coming to the park this spring is the Farmers' Market, which will begin Wednesday, May 6. The Farmers' Market at Summit Park will feature 13 local vendors and entertainment each Wednesday through October 28 from 3:30-7:00 PM.



A view of the performance stage, expected to be completed in May

The Performance Stage is currently under construction and set to be completed in May. The stage, which has a footprint as large as any in the region, is built to support national acts for current special events, as well as new events to be scheduled. The Doobie Brothers will be the first national act on the stage during the OneMain Financial Red, White and Blue Ash Celebration. Mid-West Promo Live, one of the largest concert promoters in the US, has also committed to move a popular 3-day country music concert, *Buckle Up*, to Summit Park in 2016.



A view of the future Community Building and Glass Canopy

Construction has also begun on additional Phase Two amenities, which include the 17,000 square foot Community Building, Indoor/Outdoor Glass Canopy, as well as the Main Street Plaza which will become the heart of the park. Brown Dog Café has committed to operate a full-service restaurant/bar within 4,000 square feet of the Community Building. The Glass Canopy will feature 40' high ceilings, colored glass, and a world-class design while playing host to the region's most prestigious events.

Unique community programming and events are currently being planned to complement the new park amenities. Construction on additional Phase Two amenities is expected to be complete in the fall of 2015.

## HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS IN BLUE ASH

In the last several years, Blue Ash has seen significant interest in new residential construction. While many have considered Blue Ash fully developed for years, the City has room to grow. Single lots in the vicinity of downtown Blue Ash have seen new homes on infill or demolition sites and three larger developments have also been approved.

Since 2013, nearly 20 lots around downtown Blue Ash have been cleared for new construction, a new home has been built on an infill site, or the existing residence has been completely renovated. Most instances are new residents moving into new homes, but several have involved current residents



*A home on Monroe Avenue that qualified for the CRA Tax Abatement in 2014*

who were interested in staying in the City, but in a new home. Several realtors have been actively marketing the area, and their efforts have been bolstered by the Community Reinvestment Area that was approved by City Council in early 2014. The CRA offers significant property tax incentives for new homes or for renovations to existing homes involving an investment of \$50,000 or more.

Also in 2014, City Council approved plans for a 66-unit master planned community on the 20-acre farm property on Plainfield Road, north of Fox Hollow. Great Traditions Land & Development Co. is planning a neighborhood of mid-size homes featuring front porches, private rear courtyards and lifestyle home designs located within easy walking distance to Summit Park. The civil plans are still in design and the developer expects construction to begin this year.

Creekside Pointe is already under construction. This 34-unit townhouse style development straddles the deep, wooded ravine south of UC Blue Ash with access from Old Plainfield Road and Georgetown Road (behind Walnut Creek Apartments). Many of the units in the first section are already pre-sold and the future owners are working with their own architects on final design and finish elements. The developer sought to expand the project twice, before any construction began, because of positive reception by potential buyers so far! A plan for six additional units will be presented to City Council for final approval in April.

Drees Homes is currently developing a group of five new homes on what was previously a single large lot along the west side of Kenwood Road. The location provides easy access to Cross County Highway and the amenities north and south along Kenwood Road. Several similar style developments are also under construction further south on Kenwood Road, in Sycamore Township.

Park Manor is currently building a new 12-unit condominium building adjacent to Cooper Road. This and three nearly identical new buildings are planned for the project's Cooper Lane frontage. The new buildings will have parking garages and elevator access to the units, which will be attractive for buyers interested in one-floor living.

Hills Development has completed construction of the parking garage at its 4900 Hunt Road apartment project and is currently underway on the first apartment building, which will wrap around the south side of the site. Construction will take several years but, upon completion, the complex will contain 274-units. The developer describes the complex as having luxury finishes that will include many desirable amenities for its residents.

The Hazelwood area continues to experience significant residential infill as well. Monarch Homes has built approximately 15 new homes over the last several years throughout the neighborhood. The City expects this community-wide reinvestment in housing to continue, given the premier location of Blue Ash and the desirability of the Sycamore School District.

## OPEN BURNING REGULATIONS



Open burning of trash, brush, etc. is not permitted in the City of Blue Ash. Bonfires and construction barrel burning requires a permit issued by the Blue Ash Fire Department Life Safety Division. Permit requests must be made at least 7 days prior to the event and can be obtained by calling (513) 745-8533.

Burning of rubbish is prohibited except in approved incinerators. Fires may not contain any rubbish, garbage, trash, any material made of or coated with rubber, plastic, leather or petroleum based materials and shall not contain any flammable or combustible liquids. Fires shall be constantly attended by a competent person until such fire is extinguished. The person shall have extinguishing equipment readily available for use as deemed necessary by the Fire Code Official. Residents can dispose of excess rubbish or have personal documents destroyed at the City's annual Neighborhood Clean Up Day on May 2 (information on page 6).

## FIRE HYDRANT MAINTENANCE

The Blue Ash Fire Department will be performing its spring service to fire hydrants within the City throughout April, May and June. This routine maintenance is important to assure continued proper operation of hydrants. Examples of the work to be performed on hydrants include:

- Flushing hydrants, which will cause sediment and the water to discolor until the sediment settles
- Lubricating and operating the hydrants
- Replacing worn parts
- Weeding around hydrants
- Selected hydrants will be flow tested, requiring large volumes of water to be run during a longer time to gather accurate readings related to water pressure and quantity

Residents are respectfully reminded not to position plantings near hydrants to obstruct hydrants from view, or to impede access by firefighters in case of an emergency. BAFD will be placing yard signs near street entrances to identify the areas where they will be working. Residents living on these streets are advised to run water in their homes prior to use until the water appears clear. This is especially important before using water for drinking, bathing, or laundering. If residents find rust in their laundry water, they can go to the North Fire Station (10647 Kenwood Road) and ask for rust remover (supplied by Cincinnati Water Works). Citizens with questions or concerns should call the Fire Department at (513) 745-8533.

## ANNUAL BEAUTIFICATION CONTEST BEGINS MAY 1

The Blue Ash Parks and Recreation Department will begin accepting submissions on May 1 for the 2015 Beautification Contest, the annual neighborhood landscaping competition. Property owners have over a month to prepare their lawns and gardens for Blue Ash Beautification judging period, which runs Monday, June 8 through Friday, June 12.

The winning four residential properties will be judged according to the type of plantings used, including garden variety and color, lawn area and tree maintenance, and overall appearance. One business award will also be determined by the Parks Department. Yard signs will be distributed to the winners shortly after the judging takes place. Residents who have won in the past three years will not be eligible for 2015. Winners will be honored by Council at a September Council Meeting. Interested property owners should contact Peggy Behm, Special Events Coordinator with Blue Ash Parks & Recreation at [events@blueash.com](mailto:events@blueash.com) or (513) 745-8644 between May 1 and June 1.



# SCAMS: PREVENT YOURSELF FROM BECOMING A VICTIM

The Blue Ash Police Department investigates all crimes that occur within the City. Some of the more obvious ones, like property, domestic, and drug crimes, are the ones you hear about in the media. Less conspicuous ones, like financial crimes or telephone scams, can sometimes be much more devastating to the victim in terms of the high cost and low probability of finding the perpetrator. Sadly, many criminals target elderly citizens. Prevent yourself from becoming a victim by familiarizing yourself with these crimes and sharing this information with your family and friends:

**Lottery scams:** You receive a phone call where the caller says, "You have been chosen as the winner of \$11 million" or other awards like a trip, boat, etc. The caller tells you that in order to claim your prize(s) you have to pay the "taxes due on the prize" and asks you to send money via MoneyGram, GreenDot money pack, Western Union, or prepaid gift cards. They ask you to send it to someone in another city, state or country. Suspects purport themselves to be attorneys or officials of the company or another official title. Another method is to ask the victim to give them their bank account information so they can "take the fee out" and then "deposit the winnings" into the victim's bank account. Bottom line: If you have to pay something to win something... it's a scam.

**Family assistance scam:** You get a phone call from someone claiming to be your family member (grandchild, niece, nephew, etc.) They are sometimes difficult to hear or sound like they are in distress. They say they are in a foreign country and have lost their money, passport or luggage, or have been arrested. They will ask that money be wired to the country where they are being held. The caller will be crying and sound very convincing in an attempt to mask the real voice just in case the victim does recognize the difference. Sometimes, the caller says that they sustained an injury to his/her face that has resulted in the voice sounding differently. Victims often forget to ask the name of the caller and just assume it's one of their relatives, or give away information during the conversation. It is rare that the victim has a relative that is away in another country, but they get so wrapped up in the emotions that they don't even realize that they don't have a niece, nephew or grandchild that would be in this situation to begin with. BAPD suggests getting a call back number and checking with other family members to see if the relative really is travelling abroad and/or is in need of assistance.

**Home Visits:** Some criminals will actually ring the doorbell and try to convince the victim that they are with the IRS, a bank or other financial institution and that they need the victim to go with them to straighten out a problem at the bank. They will get the victim to go in and take a smaller amount of money from the account to 'test' the system, then have the victim go to another branch to withdraw a significant amount from their account. By the time they figure out they've been scammed, the criminals are long gone.

The screenshot shows the Blue Ash website's 'SOLICITORS' page. It includes a search bar, navigation menu, and a table of current approved solicitors with permits. The table has columns for Date Applied, Date Expires, Corporation, Person(s) operating under permit, Times, dates and routes of solicitation in Blue Ash, and Additional Information.

Date Applied	Date Expires	Corporation	Person(s) operating under permit	Times, dates and routes of solicitation in Blue Ash	Additional Information
1/30/2015	1/31/2016	IOS Energy	Christopher Brown, Steven Weisrub	Monday-Friday 11AM-5PM, Saturday 9AM-3PM in residential neighborhoods, will stop when dark outside	
2/20/2015	6/31/2015	Ohio Citizen Action	Josh 'Ias, come here!	Monday-Friday 4PM-8PM, Saturday 12PM-5PM	Ohio Citizen Action will be petitioning, fund-raising, and distributing literature.
3/24/2015	3/24/2016	Sunset Ice Cream	Draciano Costeros	Seven days a week, 9AM-5PM	This is an ice cream truck

**Paving or home improvement scams:** If a "contractor" appears at your door and offers to pave your driveway or do other work around the house with material left over from another job, it's a scam. Solicitors must receive a permit through Blue Ash Mayor's Court in order to go door-to-door within the City. A list of approved solicitors with permits can be found on the City's website under the Police Department ([http://www.blueash.com/departments/police\\_department/solicitors.php](http://www.blueash.com/departments/police_department/solicitors.php)). You can always ask anyone who knocks on your door for identification and if they have a Solicitor's Permit with the City.

New rules from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) went into effect December 1, 2014 regulating the practices of Energy Suppliers (CRES and CRENGS marketers) conducting door-to-door solicitations. Door-to-door solicitors must display photo identification, comply with all applicable laws and ordinances in a customer's jurisdiction, have a criminal background performed by the energy supplier, shall not conduct door-to-door solicitation outside the hours of 9 AM and 7 PM, and must provide for independent third-party-verification to ensure the validity of the enrollment. Concerns regarding these specific solicitors should be directed to PUCO, <http://www.puco.ohio.gov/puco/>.

Anytime you think something is not right or out of place, call BAPD dispatch at (513) 745-8555.



# Concert Series

Presented by:  

## 2015 CONCERT SCHEDULE

### TUESDAY NIGHT CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Tuesday Night Concerts are held at the Nature Park Amphitheatre (located at 4433 Cooper Road). Shows begin at 7PM.



### FRIDAY NIGHT CONCERTS ON THE SQUARE

Friday Night Concerts are held on the Blue Ash Towne Square (located at Hunt & Cooper Roads). Shows begin at 8PM.



TUE, JUNE 2	P & G BIG BAND
TUE, JUNE 9	SYCAMORE COMMUNITY BAND
TUE, JUNE 16	CINCINNATI BRASS BAND
TUE, JUNE 23	MIAMI STEEL BAND
TUE, JUNE 30	NO CONCERT
TUE, JULY 7	BLAIR CARMEN AND THE BELLEVIEW BOYS
TUE, JULY 14	THE KLABERHEADS
TUE, JULY 21	UC COMMUNITY BAND
TUE, JULY 28	JENNIFER ELLIS & FRIENDS
TUE, AUG 4	KEITH JONES AND THE MAKESHIFTS
TUE, AUG 11	MONDAY NIGHT BIG BAND
TUE, AUG 18	OHIO MILITARY BAND
TUE, AUG 25	RICKY NYE INC.
FRI, JUNE 5	THE SOUL POCKET BAND
FRI, JUNE 12	FOREVER DIAMOND
FRI, JUNE 19	PISTOL HOLLER
FRI, JUNE 26	THE MODULATORS
FRI, JULY 3	NO CONCERT
FRI, JULY 10	JAMISON ROAD
FRI, JULY 17	STAGGER LEE
FRI, JULY 24	SECOND WIND
FRI, JULY 31	THE DRYSDALES
FRI, AUG 7	FINAL ORDER
FRI, AUG 14	OOH LA LA
FRI, AUG 21	THE REMAINS



More Information Visit [BlueAshEvents.com](http://BlueAshEvents.com)  
Or Scan the QR Code with Your Smartphone



## NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UP DAY

**MAY**  
**2**

Saturday, May 2  
9:00 AM—3:00 PM  
Blue Ash Service Department

The annual Neighborhood Clean-Up Day is a service that allows residents to bring their “spring cleaning” items to the Service Department at 6131 Interstate Circle for disposal. 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, mercury, lawn pesticides, tires, etc.); and broken concrete, dirt, rocks, topsoil and debris. Free household document shredding will be available as well. Residents are limited to four boxes (banker size box) of household documents. No business documents accepted. Residents will have the opportunity to view their documents being shredded. Proof of residency is required by showing a valid driver’s license and a current utility bill listing the resident’s Blue Ash address.



## FARMERS’ MARKET AT SUMMIT PARK

Weekly beginning Wednesday, May 6  
3:30 PM—7:00 PM  
Summit Park

**MAY**  
**6**



The new Farmers’ Market at Summit Park will kick off its first annual season on May 6. The market will offer sustainably grown foods and goods for sale from local vendors. Each week, along with seasonal goods, the Farmers’ Market will feature a mix of fun and entertainment through music, happy hours, guest vendors, food trucks, free demos and classes. The weekly vendors include: Backyard Orchard, Blue Oven Bakery, Can-Du Farm, Goodlife Farm, Honey Sweetie Acres, Kartal’s Pure Honey, My Artisano Foods, Streetpops, Summuh, That Girl’s Flowers, Tom’s Garden, Walnut Ridge Acres, and Webb Valley Farm. The Farmers’ Market will also feature a gardening exhibit on May 13, the Touch-a-Truck Event on May 20, and free yoga on May 27.

## PUBLIC WORKS HOSTS TOUCH-A-TRUCK EVENT

**MAY**  
**20**

Wednesday, May 20  
4:00 PM—7:00 PM  
Summit Park

The Blue Ash Public Works Department will host a Touch-a-Truck Event on Wednesday, May 20 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Summit Park (4335 Glendale-Milford Road). Equipment will be on display for children and adults to get a close-up look at the vehicles used around the City. Individuals can get their pictures taken and learn more about the Public Works Department during National Public Works Week. Vehicles will include a street sweeper, wheel loader, dump truck, mini excavator, snow plows, and more. The event will be canceled in the event of rain. For more information, visit [facebook.com/blueashohio](https://facebook.com/blueashohio).



# MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND CEREMONY

**MAY**  
**25**

Monday, May 25  
10:15 AM  
Cooper Road & Towne Square



The City of Blue Ash will host its annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony on Monday, May 25. The parade will begin on Reed Hartman Highway and Cooper Road promptly at 10:15 AM. The parade will proceed east on Cooper to Kenwood, south on Kenwood to Hunt, east on Hunt and end at the Bicentennial Veterans Memorial Park at Blue Ash Towne Square. A special ceremony will take place after the parade at approximately 11:30 AM. The keynote speaker will be Colonel Donald C. McGraw, Jr. Colonel McGraw spent 14 months in 2005 & 2006 as the Director of Operations, CJ-3, for Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan and spent the remainder of his commissioned service as the Director for Afghanistan Policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He retired from the U.S. Army in July 2009 and is currently the President and General Manager of Planet Products Corporation in Blue Ash, Ohio. The Blue Ash Montgomery Symphony Orchestra will also perform at 6 PM at Blue Ash Towne Square on Memorial Day. In the event of rain, the concert will be held at Sycamore Junior High School.

## BIKE RODEO

Saturday, July 18  
12:00—3:00 PM

Target (9099 Plainfield Road)

**JULY**  
**18**



The annual Bike Rodeo will be held at Target on July 18. Blue Ash Police, Fire, and Public Works will participate in the event, which will feature safety information, face painting, snacks, free helmets from Children’s Hospital, an obstacle course, giveaways, and a “touch-a-truck” event. The Ohio State Highway Patrol and Chase Bank will also be present at the event with displays and fun giveaways.

## COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TREE PROGRAM

The City of Blue Ash is offering two discount tree vouchers for individuals living in the Community Reinvestment Area (R-3 zoning district around downtown Blue Ash). For those surrounded by residential development, a one-time 50% discount (up to \$200) voucher for the planting of a tree or trees may be obtained for planting in public view (i.e. front yard). For those abutting non-residential uses (including multi-family with 5+ units), a one-time 50% discount (up to \$1,000) may be obtained for planting buffer (trees or other vegetation) between the home and non-residential use. Participating nurseries must perform the installation.

You can participate by visiting [http://www.blueash.com/departments/community\\_development/community\\_reinvestment\\_area.php#tree](http://www.blueash.com/departments/community_development/community_reinvestment_area.php#tree) to determine your eligibility. To receive a voucher, contact the reception desk at Blue Ash City Hall by calling (513) 745-8500 during normal business hours or emailing [FrontDesk@BlueAsh.com](mailto:FrontDesk@BlueAsh.com). Vouchers can be used at either Denny McKeown’s Bloomin’ Garden Centre or Natorp’s Nursery Outlet. The nursery will provide your discount at the time of purchase.

If you do not live in the Community Reinvestment Area, you may still be eligible to receive a discount on a new tree. Denny McKeown’s Bloomin’ Garden Centre offers up to a 30% discount on any tree and a 10% discount on labor fees for Blue Ash residents. 30% is the maximum discount; offers cannot be combined. Proof of residency is required at the time of purchase. Contact Denny McKeown’s at (513) 891-9035 or visit them at 8793 Kenwood Road in Blue Ash.

## THE OFFICIAL CITY OF BLUE ASH SPRING NEWSLETTER



— PRESENTED BY —



**TOYOTA**  
Let's Go Places



**Warm98**  
Today's Hits • Yesterday's Favorites

**Saturday, July 4, 2015 • 4PM-10:35PM • Summit Park**

Celebrate Independence Day with The Biggest & Best Fireworks in the tri-state area!  
FREE national entertainment, family fun area, food, beverage and more!

### ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

<b>4PM</b>	<b>GATES OPEN</b>
<b>5:30PM</b>	<b>DV8</b>
<b>8:15PM</b>	<b>THE DOOBIE BROTHERS</b>
<b>10PM</b>	<b>FIREWORKS simulcast to Warm98</b>