



CITY OF BLUE ASH COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER WINTER 2013

A Newsletter Published by
the City of Blue Ash, Ohio

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Summit Park Officially Opens

The City of Blue Ash officially opened Summit Park during a ribbon-cutting ceremony held in October. New trails recently created through the park were unveiled during the ribbon cutting. Some of the trails are mulched, while others are more natural and rustic. The trails were installed after Blue Ash took possession of the land in September.

Summit Park is located at Glendale-Milford and Plainfield Roads on part of the former Blue Ash Airport. Development will occur in phases during the next several years. It will feature additional walking/running trails, an event pavilion, multi-purpose facility, observation tower, restaurants and recreation facilities.

“Blue Ash promised our residents that we would work to make the park accessible as soon as possible,” said Blue Ash Mayor Mark Weber. “The Parks and Public Works Departments did a fantastic job of making the park usable in just about a month after we took possession.”

Planning and design work continues, and it is anticipated construction will begin in 2013. The City is working with MSA Architects to plan the first phase of the construction. Turner Construction has been named the construction manager on the project, and KZF Design will act as the civil engineer.

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Recreation Center Continues to Serve

In 2009, Blue Ash opened the doors on the renovated Recreation Center. Always popular among those who live or work in Blue Ash, the renovated Rec Center is more popular than ever. It offers more fitness equipment, programming, and fun. Since the completion of the renovations, memberships have increased 37% to more than 13,000. New amenities and equipment continue to be added.

This year, the structure of Rec Center memberships was changed. Instead of offering a la carte options, memberships now include access to all Rec Center amenities, with the exception of the climbing wall, which has a minimal fee.

The result of the renovation and the new membership structure was a 37 percent increase in memberships. There are now more than 13,000 members of the Rec Center, which exceeds our population.

Whether it is for the fitness center, pool and water play areas, game room, or tennis courts, the Blue Ash Recreation Center has something for everyone in your family. Rec Center gift certificates make great holiday gifts.





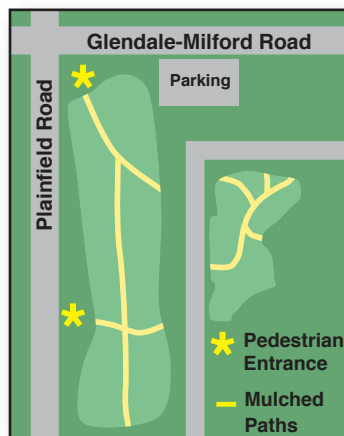
Summit Park Officially Opens (continued from page 1)

When completed, Summit Park will be the largest park in Blue Ash. Its size and the Great Lawn will provide ample space for community events. Recreation amenities and equipment will be designed for all age groups. Restaurants will attract usage throughout the day. Seasonal amenities, including a sledding hill and skating rink, will make Summit Park a place for the community to connect throughout the year.

Summit Park is the third major project to be funded by Issue 15, which Blue Ash voters passed in 2006. The first Issue 15 project was the expansion and renovation of the Blue Ash Recreation Center. The second was the construction of Cooper Creek Event Center and other improvements at Blue Ash Golf Course.

“The park, the crown jewel of the exceptional projects funded by the passage of Issue 15, will evolve over the next decade,” Weber said. “As construction proceeds, the journey will be as exciting as the destination.”

Each of the projects funded by Issue 15 has been a clear success. Summit Park stands to be another success, as promised to taxpayers in 2006.



The master plan for the amenities of the new Blue Ash Summit Park includes:

- Walking/Running Trails
- Park Commons
- Event Pavilion with Covered Canopy
- Multipurpose Facility
- Seasonal Ice Skating Rink
- Farmers Market
- Contemporary Play Area
- Picnic Area
- Terraced Lawn
- Restaurants and Bistros
- Lawn Games
- Community Health/Fitness Programming
- Great Lawn
- Observation Tower
- Plaza/Stage
- Seasonal Sledding Hill
- Pond/Stream Enhancements
- Community Gardens

Cooper Creek: A Rising Star

Cooper Creek Event Center (CCEC) has been open for nearly a year and has exceeded expectations. CCEC has hosted weddings, business functions, meetings and many other types of events. In addition to hosting events, CCEC provides a new home for the Blue Ash Golf Course Pro Shop and Sandtrap Grill.

Cooper Creek Event Center has done more than just host events and welcome golfers. CCEC has served as the backdrop for lifelong memories for so many people. From brides and grooms who are surrounded by friends and family for their first dance as “Mr. and Mrs.,” to the golfer who buys a round for his buddies after his first hole-in-one, CCEC has provided the subtle and elegant stage for moments that will be remembered forever.

The success of Cooper Creek Event Center shows that Blue Ash has filled a void in our region. Our flexible space can host small, intimate gatherings; large weddings; and everything in between. The finishings throughout the venue are elegant and sophisticated. Catering Adventures, a division of Vonderhaar’s Catering and the exclusive caterer for CCEC, was recently selected as the “Best of the North” by Cincy Magazine.

By the end of the year, Cooper Creek Event Center will have hosted more than 200 events, and next year is shaping up to be even bigger. The calendar is quickly filling for 2013. CCEC is the best our region has to offer for events. To plan your next event at Cooper Creek, call (513) 745-8596.



Trees Planted at Nature Park

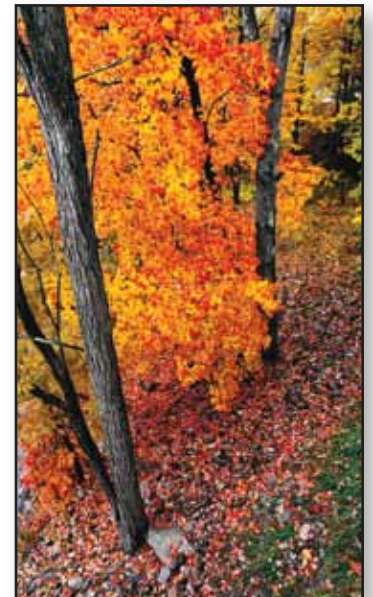
From the emerald ash borer, to lightning strikes, to damage from Hurricane Ike’s high winds several years ago, Mother Nature has been harsh to Blue Ash. The Nature Park has taken quite a few of those shots. The City of Blue Ash has had to take down about 80 trees in the park and on other Blue Ash Recreation grounds during the past year and a half.

September 29 was National Public Lands Day. Working with Toyota, the City of Blue Ash marked the occasion by planting new trees to replace many that have been removed. In past years, wildflowers and as many as 10 trees were planted. This year, more than 60 trees were planted in an effort to make up for the recent losses.

“In being good stewards of the land, it is important that we help to replenish what is taken away,” said Andy Dumford, who organized the planting for the Parks and Recreation Department. “We did a major planting this year to replace much of what we have lost.”

For the fourth straight year, Toyota coordinated more than 60 volunteers to help. Students from local schools and Toyota employees and their families participated.

Elm, Oak, Maple, and Tulip Poplar trees were planted. A local nursery provided an additional 100 Oak seedlings, most of which were given to participating children to plant in their yard.



Blue Ash, Ilmenau Mark 10 Years

Blue Ash and Ilmenau, Germany have been sister cities for 10 years. The partnership has provided an exchange of culture, arts, best practices, business interaction, and education for Blue Ash.

Each year, a delegation from one city travels to the other. In September, Blue Ash hosted a delegation from Ilmenau. The group included several council members, two police officers, educators, public utility employees and a reporter.

“We are fortunate to have such a great partner in Ilmenau,” said Mayor Mark Weber. “Both cities work hard to deepen our partnership and grow our understanding of each other’s culture, economic needs, and government functions.”

The visit provided a well-rounded Blue Ash experience for the German travelers and ample time to exchange ideas. Ilmenau guests on the trip experienced tours of the Hamilton County Justice Center and the Cincinnati Police Communications Center, a tour of Blue Ash City Facilities, the dedication of Ilmenau Way, and a Riverboat Cruise. To make the Ilmenau visitors feel a little closer to home, the delegation visited Oktoberfest Zinzinnati.

The trip included a stop at the Edwin H. Greene Intermediate School in Blue Ash. Members of the student orchestra provided a performance. Ilmenau Councilman Gunther Kreuzberger gave a presentation on arts, sports and culture in his home city and what life is like for his children.

The Ilmenau delegation also placed a wreath at the Blue Ash Bicentennial Veterans Memorial Park.

Delegates visited the archive at Hebrew Union College, which is one of the largest collections of Jewish history in the world. The tour was hosted by Rabbi Gary Zola, who was part of the Blue Ash delegation to Ilmenau last year.

Blue Ash is expected to send a delegation to Ilmenau in May 2013.



Delegates honor veterans with the placement of a wreath at the Blue Ash Bicentennial Veterans Memorial Park.



The entire Ilmenau delegation proudly poses at Ilmenau Way, the City’s newest street which connects Osborne Blvd and Reed Hartman Highway.



Blue Ash Police Officer Dane Baumgartner explains the operation of the Total Station measuring instrument to Captain Steffen Schulze of the Thüringer Polizei.



Delegates pose at the Reds NL Central Division ‘Climb’ Game against the Dodgers.



Ilmenau Councilman Gunther Kreuzberger presents to Edwin H. Greene students.

BAFD Offers Winter Safety Advice

Heating Safely

As the colder weather is quickly approaching, the Blue Ash Fire Department wants to help keep you and your family safe. When you fire up the furnace for the first time this year, make sure all combustible materials are away from the heating system. BAFD recommends that you have a qualified technician inspect your furnace annually.

If you are heating with a woodstove or fireplace, make sure it is installed properly and has an adequate clearance (36") from combustible surfaces. Chimneys should be inspected annually and cleaned if necessary. Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire. Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening, to prevent embers and sparks from jumping out.

Do not use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces. It is possible to ignite creosote in the chimney by over-building the fire. Burn only dry, well seasoned wood to minimize dangerous creosote buildup.

Other fireplace tips:

- Never burn charcoal inside a house or building; it can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide (CO).
- Be sure your fire is out prior to going to sleep.
- Never close the damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper could cause hot ashes to heat up again and force toxic CO into the house.
- Never discard ashes inside or near your home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from your home.

If you are using a space heater this year, please do not overload your circuits. While best to be avoided, if you use extension cords, only use those that have the necessary rating to carry the amp load. Make sure your space heater automatically shuts off if turned over.

The fire department also reminds residents to have working smoke detectors and CO detectors in their home. There should be a smoke detector and a CO detector on each level of a home.

Removing Snow

Snow removal often causes people to overexert themselves. From minor aches and pains to fatal heart attacks, each winter BAFD is called for medical attention needed from incidents involving shoveling snow.

Shoveling puts a lot of stress on the body in a short period of time. It causes a quick increase in heart rate and blood pressure. Those most at risk during shoveling are people with a history of heart disease, high blood pressure or high cholesterol levels, smokers and people who lead a sedentary lifestyle. Stop shoveling if you experience any of these warning signs:

- Shortness of breath
- Heavy sweating
- Any kind of pain

Anything that's not normal can be a warning sign. If you start to feel poorly during or after shoveling snow, BAFD recommends you seek immediate medical attention.

If you have any questions about these winter safety tips, call BAFD at (513) 745-8533.

Ohio Department of Transportation I-71 at Pfeiffer Road Improvement Project

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) – District 8 will begin work this December on a construction project that may have implications for travelers passing through the Blue Ash/Montgomery area for several months.

In a move ODOT says is designed to “greatly enhance travel during peak commute periods,” construction to improve the interchange of I-71 and Pfeiffer Road begins this December with completion anticipated by the end of 2013. The project's improvements are designed to:

- Help move more vehicles onto northbound I-71 from eastbound Pfeiffer through dual, dedicated left turn lanes
- See the addition of a new auxiliary lane to facilitate travel from Pfeiffer via northbound I-71 directly to the I-275 exit

- No longer require motorists to merge into through-lanes on I-71 if they are connecting to I-275. This dedicated lane will also help motorists traveling on northbound I-71 by reducing the current volume of traffic merging from the Pfeiffer entrance ramp.

Construction will take place over several major, sequenced phases which will include moving a section of the sound wall to make room for the auxiliary lane and relocating an ARTIMIS sign. All lanes on Pfeiffer are expected to be maintained during the improvement project.

ODOT is funding and managing the project. Interested individuals are encouraged to follow ODOT on Facebook ([facebook.com/OhioDepartmentOfTransportation](https://www.facebook.com/OhioDepartmentOfTransportation)) and Twitter (twitter.com/#!/ODOT_Cincinnati) for updates as well.

Criminals Enjoy the Holidays

While many people are looking forward to the holidays, the Blue Ash Police would like to remind everyone that criminals are looking forward to this time of year as well. By offering a few Holiday Safety Tips, the police hope to make people more aware of their surroundings and better prepared for the unexpected.

Personal Safety Tips

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible.
- Keep car doors locked while driving, especially at night.
- Park in well-lighted areas of parking lots or on the street.
- When approaching and leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- Have your keys in-hand prior to going to your car.
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
- Look into your car before getting in. Check the back seat and floor to make sure there is no one hiding.
- Once inside your car, relock the doors.
- Do not put your purse or packages down or on top of the car in order to open the door.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Don't appear unaware, frightened or confused when you are walking.
- Trust your instincts. If you think that something is suspicious, chances are you are right.
- If you do become the victim of a crime, draw attention to yourself with whatever means available.

Shopping Safety Tips

- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.
- Always carry your driver's license or other identification with you.
- Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible. Avoid carrying large sums of cash, and never "flash" your money in front of others.
- Make sure that your credit card is returned to you.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Keep receipts separate from purchases so a thief cannot return them for cash.
- When putting purchases into your car, lock them in the trunk or place them out of sight.

Home Safety Tips

- Gifts should be placed out of sight from the windows.
- Shred or place cartons from high value presents in garbage bags before placing out the trash.
- If leaving town, ask neighbors to watch your home.
- When gone for extended periods, leave lights on randomly set timers and have newspapers, mail and other deliveries held or picked up.
- Notify the Blue Ash Police of your pending vacation plans. Officers will check your home while you are gone.

The Blue Ash Police remain ever-vigilant, especially during this time of year, to ensure that everyone has a safe holiday season.

Blue Ash Honored by Airman

City of Blue Ash IT Specialist Junar Mabunay recently returned to work following his deployment to Southwest Asia for the United States Air Force. Master Sergeant Mabunay is a member of the 123rd Air Control Squadron, Blue Ash Air National Guard Station.

At a council meeting in October, Mabunay presented a US flag he had dedicated to the City of Blue Ash while on deployment. During the flag dedication, Mabunay explained to City Council that he had the opportunity to obtain a flag flown over Afghanistan aboard a US Air Force B-1 bomber to honor anyone. He chose the City of Blue Ash because of the City's support of his military involvement.

Mabunay was deployed from November 2011 for six months. He returned to work at Blue Ash in June.

Mabunay was recognized along with Blue Ash Police Officer Jason Asbury, who also recently returned from military deployment. Officer Asbury was deployed to Afghanistan in August 2011 with his Ohio Army National Guard unit. He returned to the BAPD in October, where he has worked since 2009. Besides returning to work, Officer Asbury also has married since ending his deployment.





Matthew 25: Ministries (11060 Kenwood Road) **Global Village Expansion**

Matthew 25: Ministries is tripling the size of its Global Village Experience. The encounter will provide additional three-dimensional experiences that immerse the guest in earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes and floods as well as coal-mining Appalachia and life on Native American reservations. The experience will also feature a three-dimensional exhibit that showcases living conditions in a garbage dump. The Global Village Experience hands-on, interactive approach to humanitarian education provides an empathetic experience that comprehensively captures the “real time” conditions in which people struggle to survive.

Sycamore Senior Center Events **Red Skelton Remembered**

On Wednesday, December 12, the Sycamore Senior Center will host a dinner featuring Red Skelton Remembered a performance by Jennings Barnett, honoring the precious memories of one of America’s best known pantomimists, composers and artists. A pre-dinner reception begins at 4:00 p.m. Tickets must be purchased no later than Friday, December 7th.

Holiday Daytime Party

On Tuesday, December 18, 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., the Sycamore Senior Center will offer a Holiday Lunch. Popular carols will fill the air in preparation for the featured entertainment, Russ and Barb Childers’ special Christmas program A Bear Foot Christmas/Appalachian Memories.

Call (513) 984-1234 for more information for either of these events.

Blue Ash Woman’s Club Luncheon

The Blue Ash Woman’s Club will host their Spring Scholarship Luncheon on Saturday, April 13. Tickets are \$25, which includes lunch, door prizes and favors. The luncheon will also feature a silent auction and basket raffle. Call (513) 891-4043 for reservations.

Ohio Alleycat Resource

Ohio Alleycat Resource & Spay/Neuter Clinic (OAR) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching Greater Cincinnati’s cats and communities. The organization, founded in 1998, has several programs to help those caring for cats. It serves more than 8,000 clients annually at its low-cost spay/neuter clinic, and adopts approximately three-hundred cats into new homes each year. It also assists the public with stray and feral cats by loaning traps and providing guidance on spay/neuter and return of cats living outdoors. OAR is a private organization funded through donations, grants, and fundraisers, and is located in Cincinnati’s Madisonville neighborhood. For more information on OAR’s low-cost spay/neuter services call its clinic at 871-0185. More information regarding cat adoptions, volunteering, and donations can be found on its website www.ohioalleycat.org or by calling (513) 871-7297.



Habitat for Humanity’s ReStore

ReStores sell new and gently-used home improvement goods, furniture, home accessories, building materials and appliances to the public at a fraction of the retail price. The proceeds are used by our local Habitat for Humanity affiliates to help build and renovate more homes and communities.

Each ReStore accepts donations of home goods, furniture, appliances and building materials. ReStores provide an environmentally- and socially-responsible way to keep good, reusable materials out of landfills.

Volunteers are also needed every day to help the ReStore run smoothly. Open to the public Monday through Saturday with 4 convenient locations in Bond Hill, Cheviot, Hamilton and Florence, the Habitat ReStore would be thankful for your business, donations or volunteer time. Visit the ReStore online at www.habitatcincinnati.org/ReStore or give them a call at (513) 721-GIVE to schedule a free pick up of your donation or to volunteer.

2013 Blue Ash Community Calendar/Photo Contest



People receiving this newsletter via mail are also receiving the 2013 Blue Ash calendar. Our calendar features the City's schedule for the year and contains stunning photography of Blue Ash submitted by residents and City staff.

The City has already begun planning the 2014 calendar which will also feature submitted photos. We will be looking for photos that capture the beauty of Blue Ash and our community coming together.

Take your camera to big events like Red, White and Blue Ash and Taste of Blue Ash, but also take photos of your children and grandchildren playing in one of our great parks. Snap pictures of hidden landmarks and well known hot spots. If it's Blue Ash, we want it photographed. In a future newsletter, the City will announce how to submit the photos. In the meantime, start snapping!



JANUARY
Downhill Thrills
Photographer: Terrence Huge



FEBRUARY
Beauty in Ice
Photographer: Terrence Huge



MARCH
Mohler Road Flower
Photographer: Scott Kincaid



APRIL
Sycamore Grove Lane
Photographer: David Waltz



MAY
Patriotism on Display
Photographer: Terrence Huge



JUNE
Le Jeune Ballet
Photographer: Larry Bresko



JULY
Red, White, Kaboom
Photographer: Josh Peck



AUGUST
They're Coming to America
Photographer: Terrence Huge



SEPTEMBER
Fall Beauty
Photographer: Terrence Huge



OCTOBER
Race for Hunger
Photographer: Larry Bresko



NOVEMBER
Veterans Day
Photographer: Kelly Harrington



DECEMBER
Snow Snoopy
Photographer: Joe Fee