

WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Summit Park Phase 3 Update

Summit Park continues to evolve into one of the area's most remarkable public spaces. This summer, 7,500 attendees took advantage of the interactive programming that included free fitness classes, corporate gatherings, 5K races, and more.

The biggest story for Summit in 2016 has been Brown Dog Café and Nanny Belle's Ice Cream. Brown Dog continued to delight its guests with its exquisite food. Its patio became a huge success and will continue to impress guests as its outdoor Pizza Oven and Bar open soon. Brown Dog also just began breakfast service as well as a Sunday afternoon brunch menu. Nanny Belle's compliments the park perfectly with their homemade tasty treats. All season long, the region's best playground, the summer heat, and Nanny Belle's ice cream supplied the ideal combination for park patrons. Nanny Belle's has also increased its menu by adding lunch food!

Phase 2 is receiving a few finishing touches before all of the focus shifts west of the stage and onto Phase 3. The installations of site signage and LED lighting that highlight the Glass Canopy are in the works. The Community Room, which is a rentable space located in the heart of the park, received its final additions which included acoustic sound panels, furniture, and audio visual amenities.

Senate and Tahona Kitchen are underway and both plan to be open in early 2017. Senate is a local Cincinnati favorite with gourmet street food, craft beers, and wine. Tahona Kitchen will focus on handcrafted tacos and a remarkable selection of craft tequilas and fresh pressed juices. It will be famously known for "walking tacos," which will be in peoples' hands all over the park early next year.

Phase 3 broke ground in September and is quickly progressing. This includes the Observation Tower, rental rooms, stormwater collection ponds, prairies, walking trails, sledding hill, and a children's nature playscape. Thanks to funding support from a Clean Water Act section 319(h) grant from Ohio EPA and U.S. EPA, a creek is being restored on site in conjunction with creation of stormwater collection ponds. These natural features will serve to mimic wetlands' function in filtering stormwater before re-use on site. The ponds and creek will also reduce erosion and pollution into downstream receiving waters.

The 150' Observation Tower offers panoramic views of the area and will boast a glass elevator and stairs to reach the top. Keep an eye to the sky in the months of December through March as you see the structure rise up from the ground into what will likely be the most iconic element of Summit Park. Phase III construction is expected to be completed in late 2017.



Brown Dog Café now offers daily breakfast 7:30-11 AM.
Sunday brunch served from 10 AM-3 PM.

Big Changes for Taste of Blue Ash 2017

With a new venue, the City is able to do more with its big events. In 32 years, the Taste of Blue Ash has undergone considerable changes, like the timing in the year, the scale of entertainment, the genre of music, and more. The success of the events over the years has been, in large part, due to the continual “tweaking” to keep up with the ever-changing desires of the public. These changes will make it even more successful in the future.

AUGUST 25-26, 2017

that's right. two days.

After much evaluation of attendance for several years, it's become obvious that Sunday afternoons are a tough draw for crowds. Moving to a two-day, Friday/Saturday format with extended hours on Friday should provide more consistent attendance throughout the event. The extended hours (opening early - like 11:00 AM early) will also give business residents an opportunity to see Blue Ash in all its glory. Other new features include: all day music with local and regional acts performing on a smaller stage throughout the day, some setup changes to make the event feel more intimate, a Friday “happy hour” for the business and resident communities, and a redesigned children's area.



Charter Changes - Thank You, Voters

On November 9, Blue Ash voters approved (68%) Issue 1, which revised part of the City's Charter. The changes were aimed at improving operations while bringing the charter up-to-date and in line with other municipalities. To see more about what changed, visit blueash.com.

- 1** Make elections non-partisan
- 2** Create staggered Council terms
- 3** Adjust Council terms from 2 to 4 years
- 4** Reserve ordinances for legislation which becomes codified
- 5** Remove Council representative from Planning Commission and replace with a resident
- 6** Allow for alternates for Board of Zoning Appeals/Board of Site Arrangement and Planning Commission
- 7** Eliminate the need to read legislation aloud at Council meetings
- 8** Allow for flexibility in publication requirements

Police Department Promotes Two Lieutenants, Two Sergeants

The Blue Ash Police Department continues its positive growth as two officers were promoted to sergeants, and two sergeants were promoted to lieutenants. Succession of command has been a recent focal point for the department in anticipation of leadership changing hands in late 2017. The four members of the police department reaffirmed their oath of office as a promise to the Blue Ash Police Department and the Blue Ash community that they will continue to protect and defend their community.

"The officers swear an oath to uphold the constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Ohio, but also to continue to protect and defend their community and to remain professional and above reproach in their duties as department leaders," said Police Chief Paul Hartinger.



"I am proud to work with such a professional, energetic, and innovative group of people across all the City departments. I also love the support we get from the citizens we work for," remarked Sgt. Roger Pohlman.

(Left) New Lieutenants Roger Pohlman and Scott Noel stand with Police Chief Paul Hartinger during their official swearing-in ceremony that took place in the Police Department on November 10. Lt. Pohlman has been with the department for almost 13 years as a sworn officer. Lt. Noel joined Blue Ash in 2001. He says, "I work for one of the finest police departments in the country that prides itself on service to the community. The promotion allows me to apply the training, experience, and principles that I have learned over my 26 years as an officer. It also allows me the opportunity to make sound decisions that will positively affect the department, the City, and law enforcement as a whole."

(Center) New Sergeant Todd Stewart is congratulated by Police Chief Paul Hartinger. He and his K9, Cash, have faithfully served this community since January 2008. "It is incredibly rewarding to be part of a community that completely supports us."

(Right) New Sergeant Jun Cho shakes hands with Chief Hartinger during he and Sgt. Stewart's ceremonial swearing-in that took place in Council Chambers on October 27. The event was highly attended by family members, City employees, and friends.

BLUEASH BUSINESSAWARDS

Presented by the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber

Blue Ash Business Awards celebrate the Blue Ash business community and recognize companies which embody the spirit of the City. Awards are presented annually at the Blue Ash Business Reception held at the Cooper Creek Event Center. The three awards given are designated by the City's tagline: Aspire. Achieve. Advance. The 2016 winners are:



ASPIRE: Awarded to businesses with extraordinary potential - start-ups, small companies or companies with new products or services.



ACHIEVE: Awarded to established businesses that demonstrate success through expansion, sales, growth, service improvements, effective practices, employee satisfaction, etc.



ADVANCE: Awarded to businesses with a significant accomplishment that resulted in a major advance for their industry or the City of Blue Ash.

ZONING CODE UPDATE

On the heels of City Council's approval of the Comprehensive Land Use plan, Blue Ash staff, with the assistance of McBride Dale Clarion, began working on an update to the City's Zoning Code. Each month throughout the year, a new section of the zoning code was presented to Planning Commission for review. Beginning with approval of new architectural standards in February and ending with definitions, and processes in September, the entire zoning code was re-written to better reflect development realities and current market conditions.

The most significant change from the current zoning code relates to the zoning districts. Commercial and industrial districts have been replaced by the planning areas from the land use plan. For the following descriptions, other uses may be permitted if they are part of an approved Planned Unit Development. The districts and changes are as follows:

CHANGES

Blue Ash North District (BAN)

Employment district with attractive office and industrial uses that also includes amenities for the employees of the district such as restaurants and retail uses

Uses added: breweries, distilleries (all sizes)

Does not permit: hotels, warehouses, drive-thru restaurants, large-scale retail, large gas stations as principle uses

Allows: light manufacturing and hospitals

Summit Park District (SP)

Regional mixed-use area catering to the visitors of Summit Park, existing and new residents, and the adjacent office developments with integrated commercial, mixed housing, and office components

Uses added: breweries, distilleries (micro, nano)

Does not permit: hotels, industrial, warehouses, drive-thru restaurants, large-scale retail, hospitals, or large gas stations as principle uses

Blue Ash South District (BAS)

Commercial district with retail, grocery, restaurant, and office components that attract from Blue Ash employment districts, residential neighborhoods, and travelers along OH-126

Uses added: breweries, distilleries (micro, nano)

Does not permit: hotels, warehouses, drive-thru restaurants, or large gas stations as principle uses

Allows: large-scale retail, light manufacturing, hospitals

Downtown District (DT)

Community mixed-use destination that contains a concentration of retail, restaurant, multi-family, and public amenity uses within an attractive, walkable district

Uses added: breweries, distilleries (micro, nano)

Does not permit: hotels or nursing home facilities

Citywide Revisions









- Five residential districts are combined into three.
- Townhomes, neighborhood-scale commercial uses conditionally allowed in the R-3 zoning district.
- Revamped Planned Unit Development process includes concept and final development approvals.
- Planning Commission can approve final development plans if plans align with the approved concept plan.
- Parking regulations increase in flexibility with market-based approach. Applicant is required to provide adequate spaces for the use, and provide written explanation for number. Plan reviewed by the City.
- Revised signage section to be content-neutral as required by a recent Supreme Court decision.

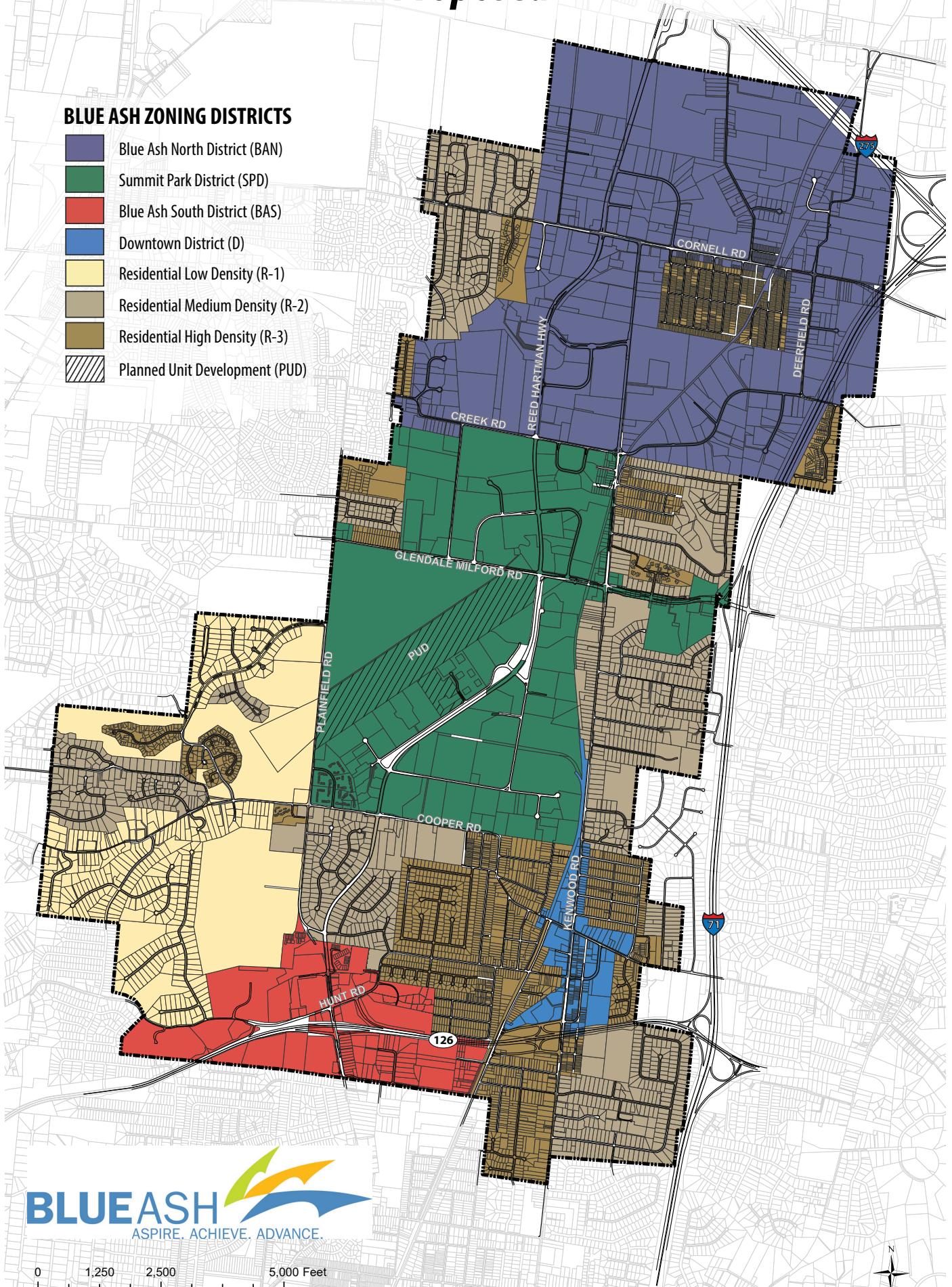
City Council held a workshop to discuss the proposed zoning code on October 27 and at the following Council meeting passed a motion setting a public hearing on the topic for January 12, 2017 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers. To view the document in its entirety, please visit www.blueash.com.

ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION

Proposed

BLUE ASH ZONING DISTRICTS

-  Blue Ash North District (BAN)
-  Summit Park District (SPD)
-  Blue Ash South District (BAS)
-  Downtown District (D)
-  Residential Low Density (R-1)
-  Residential Medium Density (R-2)
-  Residential High Density (R-3)
-  Planned Unit Development (PUD)



PARKS AND RECREATION JOB FAIR

Saturday, January 7

11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Blue Ash Recreation Center

**JAN
7**

Looking for a part-time job? Seasonal positions available in Grounds Maintenance, Parks Maintenance, Landscaping, Aquatics, Concessions, Tennis, Customer Service and Golf Course. Information also available on volunteer opportunities.

**JAN
28**

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Saturday, January 28

6:30-9:00 PM

Blue Ash Recreation Center

Join us again this winter for a night of fun with the whole family! There will be activities with the Fitness Staff, face painting, magic, a bounce house, and more great fun! Snacks, drinks available to purchase.

GREATER CINCI SUMMER CAMP ADVENTURE FAIR

Saturday, February 11

10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Blue Ash Recreation Center

**FEB
11**

Meet representatives from more than 50 camps and summer programs. Available camps include day, overnight, sports, arts, academic, faith-based, and equestrian. To learn more, call 513-252-0077.

**MAR
18**

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION (21+)

Saturday, March 18

6:30 PM-10:00 PM

Blue Ash Recreation Center

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Blue Ash this year! Fee: \$15 Pre-registered, \$18 at the door. Register at the Welcome Desk or call (513) 745-8550. Ticket price includes music, food and fun! Beer and soda available for purchase.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Wednesday, April 19

11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Blue Ash Recreation Center

**APRIL
19**

Come celebrate Planet Earth! Games, prizes and earth-friendly vendors will all be in attendance at this free event. Anyone interested in participating as a vendor, demonstrator or to volunteer, contact Sarah Chaney at schaney@blueash.com.

BLUE ASH RECREATION CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

The City of Blue Ash's Creative & Performing Arts Series includes performances and activities for families, older adults, adults, and children. All series activities are free and open to the public! Unless otherwise stated, performances take place at the Blue Ash Recreation Center.

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM

LION, WITCH, AND WARDROBE
SATURDAY, APRIL 29
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM

CINCINNATI PLAYHOUSE IN THE PARK

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24
4:30 - 7:30 PM

THE 3RD ANNUAL ART SHOWCASE FOR LOCAL STUDENTS

FESTIVAL IN THE WOODS: OPENING NIGHT

MONKEY SEE, MONKEY DO
SUNDAY, MARCH 5
DOORS OPEN AT 1:30 PM

EXPERT ZOOKEEPERS KEEP RASCALLY MONKEYS FROM TROUBLE

MADCAP PUPPETS

ALICE IN WONDERLAND
SATURDAY, MAY 13
11:00 AM

BLUE ASH NATURE PARK

PERFORMED BY MEMBERS OF THE CINCINNATI KINDERBALLET

KINDERBALLET

BABY POOL UPDATE AT RECREATION CENTER

The redeveloped Family Wading Pool will have new amenities, spray features, and attractions which will accommodate our community of all ages and abilities. It includes increased attention to interactive play for little ones who are ready to explore. It will have



zero depth entry points at two separate locations allowing easy access for children and parents to enter the pool. The new pool will have the same amount of water (30,000 gallons) as the previous pool, but it will have much more surface area and spray features, which means more space for play. It will be ready for summer 2017!

PHOTO CREDIT: DAN TYSZKA, BLUE ASH RESIDENT

in case you missed the SUPERMOON on November 17, 2016



Residents should be aware of the most recent Duke Energy Announcement. Duke submitted formal application for the Central Corridor Pipeline to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) on September 13, 2016. The application details the specifics regarding the pipeline including the locations of the preferred and alternate routes. More information can be found on Duke Energy's website as well as puc.ohio.gov. It is anticipated that Duke Energy will hold a public information session early next year.

CITY OF BLUE ASH OFFICIAL WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Development on Former Airport Property

The Al. Neyer development team presented Blue Ash Planning Commission and City Council with plans for the development of the 98-acre property next to Summit Park in August and September, respectively. The submission included a zoning code text amendment, zoning map amendment, and concept approval for the overall development. The team will appear before Planning Commission and City Council for final plan approval before any construction begins.

It has been demonstrated that walkable, mixed-use districts generate higher revenues for communities and provide an attraction for today's office users. Therefore, the Al. Neyer development team is planning for just that – to drive office and employment development in the City by leveraging the value of Summit Park and creating a mix of uses with shared infrastructure.

It is anticipated that Gateway Village and Golf View will be constructed first. Gateway is expected to include a corporate headquarters and multi-tenant Class A office, high-end apartments, restaurant and retail space, and one or two hotels. Golf View is intended to include around 100 single-family detached homes with alley-loaded garages and a focus on outdoor living areas.

Gateway Village

a vibrant mixed, use center with a strong employment focus

Carver Woods

an existing office park with space for additional Class A office, restaurants and retail, and connection point between the Reed Hartman Highway and Summit Park

Parkview Neighborhood

a mix of residential, office, senior living, and supportive retail

Golf View

a timeless residential neighborhood boasting views of Summit Park and the Blue Ash Golf Course

