



### WINTER 2018 NEWSLETTER



### **CITY COUNCIL APPROVES MIXED-USE BLOCK, SENIOR LIVING**

Blue Ash City Council voted in early January to approve exciting dining, shopping, office, high-end apartments and senior living at the former airport runway property near Summit Park. The 98-acre development, called the Neighborhoods at Summit Park, will soon be another reason why Blue Ash is the best place to live, work and play!

The mixed-use project is designed to bring an urban atmosphere to the suburbs - promoting a sense of community through interconnectivity. People will be able to easily walk to work, a great meal, retail, and more. While a variety of dynamic amenities will be easily accessible, the vibrant district won't detract from Summit Park.

The blending of urban and suburban traits has lead to a new term— "surban." These developments are in demand nationwide as they capture the attention of the world's top companies and workforce. CEOs are looking to relocate near mixed-use areas, following the wave of professionals leaving city centers for the "surbans." In today's increasingly competitive market, it is instrumental the City of Blue Ash stay on top of this trend to attract and retain corporations. By maintaining its strong economic base, the City can continue to provide high-level services and benefits to residents.

Blue Ash City Council is grateful for the public feedback it received over the past two years as this project took shape. The City of Blue Ash has long been considered one of the region's most desirable communities, and the Neighborhoods at Summit Park is an exciting step forward in ensuring the City's sustainability and success into the future.

Turn to page 2 for an FAQ on the Neighborhoods at Summit Park.

# Neighborhoods at Summit Park: FAQ

#### Why will this benefit the community?

The Neighborhoods at Summit Park will enhance the City's efforts to remain competitive when attracting and retaining companies. The mixed-use development will provide exciting amenities such as shopping and dining, as well as residential options for all stages of life. It will also support a walkable/bikeable street network that will connect to surrounding areas.



# Did the City of Blue Ash sell land for this project?

The City of Blue Ash did not sell any land for the Neighborhoods at Summit Park development. The City of Cincinnati sold the 98-acres to developers, and it was never part of Summit Park.

#### How will the development benefit Sycamore Community Schools?

Sycamore Community Schools is supportive of the project. The school district expects to receive approximately \$900,000 a year in property tax from this phase of development. No students will be generated from the senior living building and very few from the apartments, as many are one-bedroom units.

#### Will I see more traffic due to this development?

The developer has completed numerous traffic studies and will implement the necessary traffic improvements in order to ensure the City's roadways continue to function properly. What's more, the development will generate funding for offsite improvements which will benefit the entire Glendale-Milford corridor.

#### How long did the planning process take and did the community participate?



### Roundabouts: A Safe Choice for Drivers

Construction on the City's second roundabout is expected to begin in mid-2018. It will be located at the new Plainfield Road and Parkview Drive intersection, which is the entrance to the Daventry neighborhood. This roundabout will accommodate two lanes of traffic, as well as pedestrians and bicyclists. The City's first roundabout, at Malsbary and Alliance Road, opened in 2017 and has been a success.

Roundabouts are a safe and efficient choice for drivers. The U.S. Department of Transportation finds that when compared to other intersections, roundabouts result in a 90% reduction in fatalities, 76% reduction in all injuries, and a 35% reduction in crashes.

In addition to keeping drivers safe, roundabouts are also easy to maneuver and reduce congestion. Drivers only have to watch for traffic from the left, and can enter the roundabout when there is adequate space available. Once in the roundabout, drivers have the right-of-way, so they will not have to stop or yield to exit. Any delay that could take place in a roundabout is shorter than the amount of time spent waiting at a traffic light.



Source: U.S. Department of Transportation

There are just a few guidelines to remember when driving through a roundabout:

- Slow down.
- If there's more than one lane, use the left lane to turn left, the right lane to turn right, and all lanes to go through, unless directed otherwise by signs and pavement markings.
- Yield at the entry to circulating traffic.
- Stay in your lane within the roundabout and use your right-turn signal to indicate your intention to exit.
- Always assume trucks need all available space don't pass them!
- Clear the roundabout to allow emergency vehicles to pass.

#### Want to know more about roundabouts?

Visit the Public Works section on BlueAsh.com for more safety tips!

### BAFD: Keep Off The Ice

The Blue Ash Fire Department urges parents, guardians and teachers to remind children and young people to never venture onto frozen water. Even if it appears thick from the bank, it becomes thinner very quickly. Adults can set a good example by staying off the ice themselves.

If a dog or other animal ventured onto the ice, or falls through it, do not go to its rescue. You are likely to end up in the freezing water as well and unable to help the animal. Never throw sticks or balls onto the ice for your dog. In fact, over 50% of ice related drownings involve an attempted rescue of a dog.

If you do see a person or animal in trouble in icy water, stay on the bank and call 911.



### Free Tax Preparation Available for Elderly

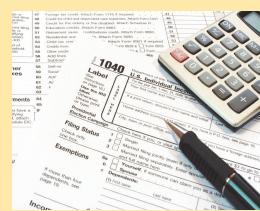
Free tax preparation for elderly residents and low-moderate income families will be available this year through the AARP Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program. Appointments are required.

The Sharonville Community Center, located at 10990 Thornview Drive, will offer services on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9AM – 4PM. Please make an appointment at this location by calling 513-563-2895.

Mayerson JCC, located at 8485 Ridge Road in Amberly Village, will offer services Thursdays only. Appointments can be made at 513-761-7500.

Participants must bring the following items to the appointment:

- A photo ID for each adult on the return
- Your social security card and the cards for each person on the return
- Your 2016 tax return
- All income and expense information from 2017



The tax preparation service will be offered February 1 – April 9.

# Blue Ash City Council Welcomes 3 New Councilmembers

Three new councilmembers were sworn-in to Blue Ash City Council in December. Linda Bauer represents Ward 1, Joe Leet was elected by Ward 2, and Jeff Capell is serving Ward 4. The three new members join incumbents Mayor Tom Adamec (At Large), Vice Mayor Marc Sirkin (Ward 5), Councilman Lee Czerwonka (At Large), and Councilman Pramod Jhaveri (Ward 3).

About Linda Bauer: Councilwoman Bauer moved to Blue Ash when she was a young child and currently works in the financial services industry. She also serves various non-profit boards in the Cincinnati area.

About Joe Leet: Councilman Leet is a recent retiree of Procter and Gamble. In his free time, he enjoys volunteer work and golfing.

About Jeff Capell: Councilman Capell works as a Economist and is a graduate of Ohio State University.



Standing L to R: Joe Leet (Ward 2), Linda Bauer (Ward 1), Jeff Capell (Ward 4), Lee Czerwonka (At Large) Sitting L to R: Vice Mayor Marc Sirkin (Ward 5), Mayor Tom Adamec (At Large), Pramod Jhaveri (Ward 3)

In addition to serving as a Councilman, he also represents the City on the Ohio-Kentucky -Indiana Regional Council of Governments.

Want to know more about City Council? Visit the Government tab on BlueAsh.com!

### Police Lieutenant Named Chief

Scott Noel was sworn-in as Chief of Police for the Blue Ash Police Department in December.

Chief Noel joined the Blue Ash Police Department in 2002. Prior to serving as Chief, he worked as a patrol officer, field training officer, detective, undercover drug investigator, firearms supervisor, SWAT officer, patrol sergeant, and patrol lieutenant.

"It is an honor and a privilege to be chosen to lead this distinguished group of men and women," says Chief Noel. "I am excited to begin this new venture and continue serving this great community."

Chief Noel replaced former chief Paul Hartinger, who retired after joining the Blue Ash Police Department in 1989.



# **New Country Music Festival at Summit Park**

Kick off the start of summer with a new country music festival at Summit Park! SummitFest is a one-day event taking place Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> from noon-11PM.

Three national country music artists will take the stage in one of the region's most beautiful venues. In addition to live entertainment, attendees will be able to enjoy a variety of food vendors and food trucks. Adults can cool down in the Beer and Whiskey Garden, and kid-friendly activities will be set-up throughout the day underneath Summit Park's Canopy.

The festival will also mark the start of summer activities at Summit Park and the completion of Phase III of the development. Admission is free.

The official entertainment lineup will be announced in March. Follow SummitFest on Facebook and Twitter for updates!

# A Note About Taste: Blue Ash Food and Music Festival

After a wonderful run that has spanned three decades, Taste: Blue Ash Food and Music Festival has come to an end. However, there will still be plenty of fun City events all summer long! Our upcoming events include:

- Mio's Blue Ash Summer Concert Series is held June through September. Tuesday Night Concerts are at the Blue Ash Nature Park, Thursday Night Concerts are at Summit Park, and Friday Night Concerts are at Towne Square.
- Red, White & Blue Ash is July 4 at Summit Park.
- Beats, Arts & Eats is August 25 at Towne Square.
- Blue Ash Farmers' Market will run each Wednesday at Summit Park from May 23 through September 26.

# St. Patrick's Day Celebration Saturday, March 17th, 6:30-10PM Blue Ash Recreation Center

Spend St. Patrick's Day at the City of Blue Ash Recreation Center! You can purchase tickets for \$15 before the event, or \$18 at the door. Ticket price includes music by the Monday Night Big Band, food, and fun! This event is for ages 21+.

Please register at the Welcome Desk or call 513-745-8550.

City of Blue Ash Earth Day Wednesday, April 18th, 4-7PM Blue Ash Recreation Center

Celebrate Earth Day at the Blue Ash Recreation Center! Eco-friendly businesses and organizations from around the region will share expertise and resources at this free event.

Greater Cincinnati Earth Day Coalition Saturday, April 21th, 12-5PM Summit Park

The 2018 Greater Cincinnati Earth Day Festival is an annual event that brings together thousands of citizens, community leaders, volunteers, and non-profits for an afternoon of educational and entertaining environmental activities.

Want to know more about upcoming events? Visit BlueAshEvents.com and SummitParkBlueAsh.com!



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# THE OFFICIAL CITY OF BLUE ASH SPRING NEWSLETTER

