

WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER

TOWNE SQUARE — PUBLIC INPUT

The City of Blue Ash is seeking feedback from residents about key designs and park features for a re-envisioning of Blue Ash Towne Square.

With current COVID-19 precautions in place, traditional open houses, tours and face-to-face meetings are not feasible at this time.

Instead, the information about the project is being presented virtually via photo, video, slideshow, graphics and text descriptions, and in socially-distanced photo displays located in the Blue Ash Recreation Center and at Towne Square.

There are two unique design concepts to consider for the Towne Square Project:

Concept A Refresh

This concept depicts a smaller scale refreshing of the area, but ultimately keeps the same form and function that currently exists today. Most of the park's elements will be renovated as opposed to being replaced.

Cost: \$4 (+/-) Million.

Concept B Revised

This concept provides updated and new elements, creates a walkthrough Veterans Memorial timeline, and includes a more flexible two-sided stage to accommodate how the Square is commonly used today.

Cost: \$7(+/-) Million.

View more photos of the design concepts, detailed descriptions, a video, and a slideshow on the Towne Square webpage: blueash.com/townesquare.

Make a difference in your downtown...

SHARE YOUR VISION FOR **BLUE ASH TOWNE SQUARE** BY TAKING THE SURVEY NOW AT BLUEASH.COM.



CONCEPT A REFRESH



CONCEPT B REVISED

WARM 98.5 ICE RINK AT SUMMIT PARK NOW OPEN!

Enjoy a fun-filled day of ice skating at Summit Park!

The **Warm 98.5 Ice Rink at Summit Park** opened November 14 and runs through January 3 (see schedule below).

Expect the unexpected throughout the skating season with fun theme nights and giveaways!

Due to COVID-19, participants will need to pre-register for the date and time they wish to skate. Sessions are in 90 minute increments. Registration is quick and easy at summitparkblueash.com.

Pre-registration will open seven days in advance for all future ice rink dates. The ice rink times and dates are subject to change.

Admission to the ice rink is \$6 per person, a group of three or more is \$5 per person – including skate rental!

For those who need a little help on the ice, skate aids are available at no charge. All ages are welcome.

You can also win free skate sessions by listening for giveaways on Warm 98.5.

This is the fourth ice rink season at Summit Park.



WARM 98.5 ICE RINK at SUMMIT PARK FUN FACTS:

- The rink size is 50' x 90'
- It takes three people a week to put it together
- This year there will be 90 minute sessions with 50 skaters each session
- The type of Zamboni used on the rink is a called a Bumblebee. It takes about 20-25 minutes to cut the ice (make it smooth to skate)
- When choosing a skate, go one size down for a better fit

Warm98.5

ICE RINK AT SUMMIT PARK SCHEDULE

Nov. 14 - Dec. 11 Pre-Holiday Hours	Dec. 12 - Jan. 3 Holiday Hours
MONDAY-FRIDAY 5PM-8:30PM	MONDAY-SATURDAY 12PM-9:30PM
SESSIONS: 5PM-6:30PM 7PM-8:30PM	SESSIONS: 12PM-1:30PM 2PM-3:30PM 4PM-5:30PM 6PM-7:30PM 8PM-9:30PM
SATURDAY 12PM-9:30PM	SUNDAY 12PM-7:30PM
SESSIONS: 12PM-1:30PM 2PM-3:30PM 4PM-5:30PM 6PM-7:30PM 8PM-9:30PM	SESSIONS: 12PM-1:30PM 2PM-3:30PM 4PM-5:30PM 6PM-7:30PM
SUNDAY 12PM-5:30PM	THURSDAY NOV. 26-CLOSED FRIDAY NOV. 27 12PM-9:30PM THURSDAY, DEC 24 12PM-5:30PM FRIDAY, DEC 25-CLOSED THURSDAY, DEC 31 12PM-5:30PM FRIDAY, JAN 1-CLOSED
SESSIONS: 12PM-1:30PM 2PM-3:30PM 4PM-5:30PM	

Pre-Registration Required



AN IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT COVID-19 UPDATES AND INFORMATION:

Due to the ever-changing planning and action being taken due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Blue Ash is asking residents to follow updates through Blue Ash social media, websites and e-newsletters. You can easily sign up for e-newsletters by texting BLUEASHNEWS to 22828 and entering your email address when prompted.

PUBLIC WORKS: ROUNDABOUTS AND MORE PROJECTS

The City of Blue Ash Public Works Department has been busy with several projects through the summer and fall and has even more in store for 2021.

The **2020 Paving Program** consisted of roadway resurfacing, and sidewalk, curb and catch basin repairs on several streets in the Sycamore Trace subdivision, Hunt Road (pictured right) and the Brittany Drive/Summit Avenue area of the City.

The **Reed Hartman Highway Lane Widening Project** extended the right turn lane of the east side of Reed Hartman Highway from the Kemper Connector to the south entrance of the Old P&G East Campus.

A **Traffic Signal Upgrade Project** began with the installation of fiber optic cable and new traffic control systems from Glendale-Milford Road at Reed Hartman Highway to I-275. This fiber and new traffic control systems will allow for improved traffic signal coordination, which will improve traffic flow throughout the area.

Construction will begin on **three roundabouts** in the City in 2021: Plainfield and Hunt Road, Hunt Road at the western Kroger entrance, and Plainfield Road and Peppermill Lane. The work is expected to last approximately 15 months.



COUNCIL CORNER

Council Meetings – Council meetings were held outdoors this summer and early fall at Oakwood Park, Summit Park, and the Nature Park. With the turn in weather, Council meetings resumed in Council Chambers but will transition to a virtual format this winter.



Downtown – City Council authorized the purchase of the Hosbrook property at its May 14th meeting. The City is currently under contract for the nearly 2.5-acre tract at the northwest corner of Cooper and Kenwood Roads and expects to close before the end of the year. The City plans to demolish the existing structures and hold the property for a future redevelopment opportunity. A private developer previously purchased the Ringo Lanes property with similar intentions.

Ward Redistricting – City Council previously adjusted ward boundaries in 2018 as the first step in a 2-step process to account for population growth within certain wards. As nearly 600 additional housing units have been constructed or are under construction at this time, City Council further adjusted the ward boundaries at its September 10th meeting in order to balance population. The new ward map can be found at blueash.com

BLUE ASH FIRE DEPARTMENT LIGHT THE NIGHT AND 9/11 STAIR CLIMB

The Blue Ash Fire Department hosted **Light the Night** for Fallen Firefighters at Summit Park for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF).

The Park and Summit Tower were lit in red lights from September 27 – October 4 to honor firefighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

The restaurants at Summit Park, Brown Dog Café, Senate, Tahona, and Nanny Belle's Ice Cream, also participated by becoming "Fill the Boot" donation locations to benefit the NFFF.

Every October, the NFFF sponsors the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, the official national tribute to those firefighters who died in the line of duty during the previous year.

In 2017, the Foundation created Light the Night for Fallen Firefighters to recognize the 25th anniversary of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend.

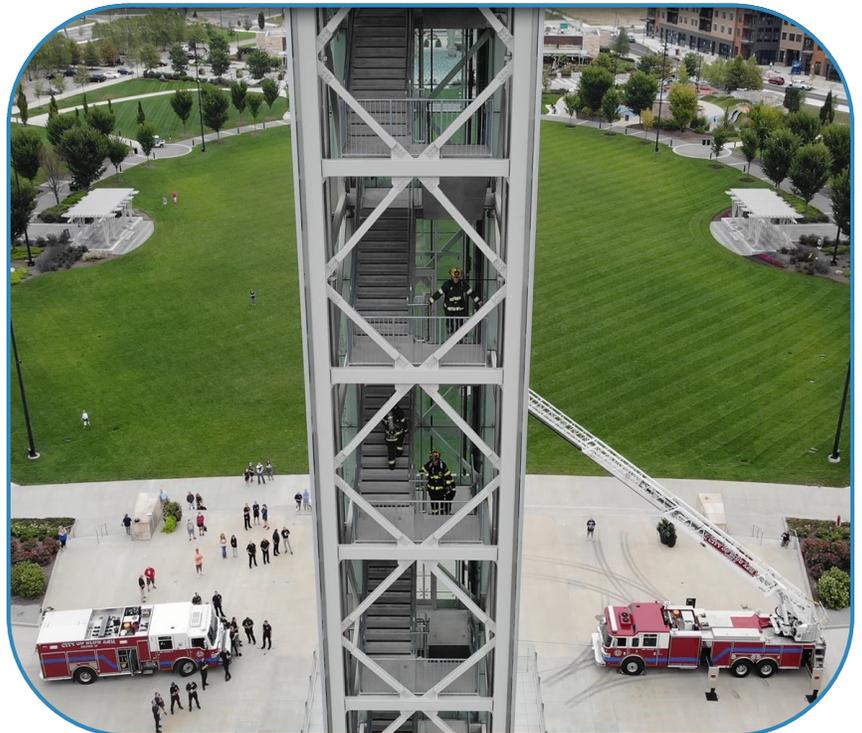


On September 11, Blue Ash Firefighters and Sharonville Firefighters participated in the **2020 National Stair Climb** for Fallen Firefighters at Summit Park to benefit the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

Paying tribute to FDNY Firefighters, participants climbed to the top of the Observation Tower six times, the equivalent of 110 stories, which is the number of floors in the World Trade Center.

The climb began at 8:46 a.m., which is the time the first aircraft struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center on 9/11.

The event assists the surviving families and co-workers of the 343 firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice on September 11, 2001. See videos and more photos of each event at blueash.com.



\$1,518



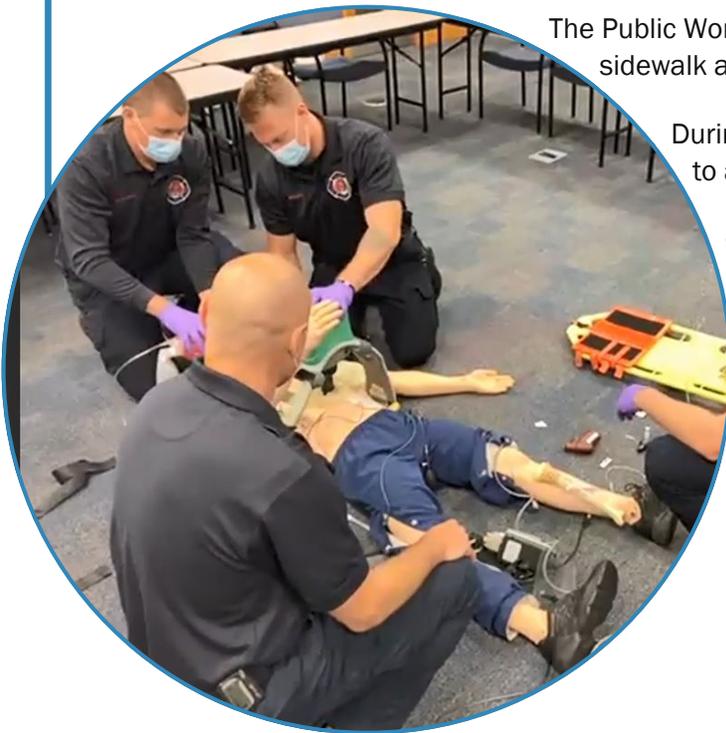
**Total Funds raised for the
National Fallen Firefighter Foundation**

CITIZENS OF BLUE ASH ACADEMY GOES VIRTUAL

The **2020 Citizens of Blue Ash Academy** (COBA) was temporarily on hold due to COVID-19, but participants voted to continue the classes virtually.

The Fire Department class on September 17 was held via Zoom, and participants watched a training demo featuring GoPro video of a search and rescue operation and a simulated house fire.

They also viewed a live simulation of Firefighter/Paramedics treating a person who was a non-breather (pictured) and participated in a Q&A with Fire Chief Chris Theders.



The Public Works class featured a demo of crews at work installing a new sidewalk and a sign making tutorial.

During the Parks and Recreation class, participants were treated to a live trivia game about Blue Ash parks and events.

COBA will be suspended in 2021 in hopes that in-person classes can resume in 2022.



VIRTUAL VETERANS DAY

The City of Blue Ash, the Blue Ash Veterans Day Committee, and the Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Orchestra (BAMSO) teamed up to bring the community a virtual Veterans Day event.

An hour-long video was created, which featured local Veterans telling the “Veteran Story,” moving poems written and read by EH Green School students, and BAMSO’s talented musicians performing stirring renditions of the Armed Forces Medley, Victory at Sea, God Bless America, and other patriotic selections.

“With the given situation regarding COVID-19, it was important to us to still find a way to honor the men and women who have served our nation,” said Blue Ash Parks and Recreation Director Brian Kruse.

The hour-long Veterans Day video was presented on YouTube and was only available for a limited time from November 11 at 10:00 a.m. – November 13 at 10:00 a.m.

BLUE ASH FARMERS MARKET CELEBRATES 5 YEARS



The Blue Ash Farmers Market celebrated its 5th anniversary at Summit Park.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Market was set up as a drive-thru at the beginning of the season and then returned to a traditional layout with social distancing measures in place.

“Due to COVID-19, we had to think fast on our feet for our customers, vendors and staff,” said Peggy Behm, Blue Ash Events and Programming Manager. “We were so happy to see so much support from the community from the start, and we are thrilled to have been able to create a safe farmers market experience during these difficult times.”

The Farmers Market will return on Wednesdays in 2021.

SPOTLIGHT FEATURES

Two new Spotlight features have been created to highlight the people and places that make the City a one-of-a-kind destination for those who wish to aspire, achieve and advance.

Businesses in Blue Ash have taken extraordinarily creative steps to overcome the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the **Blue Ash Economic Development Business Spotlight Series**, find out what these businesses have accomplished, why Blue Ash is the place for entrepreneurs and businesses to thrive, and why business owners still see a bright future ahead.

The Business Spotlight series has featured Cerkl, Abstract Displays, and Infotrust. Read more at the Blue Ash Economic Development website: Blueashadvance.com.

The **Blue Ash Citizen Spotlight** at blueash.com is a series of stories, photos, and videos about you – the people who live, work and play in Blue Ash.

You'll get to know your neighbors as they tell their stories about Blue Ash and why they love it here.

The first Citizen Spotlight features the vibrant and outgoing Amy Reynolds.

She lives and works in the City and is very active in the local community.

If you want to be showcased in the next Citizen Spotlight, or if you would like to nominate someone send an email to communications@blueash.com.

BLUE ASH BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT:

Cerkl®

INNOVATIVE EMPLOYEE COMMUNICATIONS PRODUCTS IN DEMAND DUE TO COVID-19



BLUEASHADVANCE.COM



Blue Ash Citizen Spotlight: Amy Reynolds

"A mix of places to work, places to eat, things to do... I love Blue Ash!"
-Amy Reynolds



Watch the video and read more at blueash.com



POLICE OFFICERS RECOGNIZED FOR SAVING LIVES



Officer Fritts



Officer Owens



Officer Chahine



Officer Schrand



Sergeant Cho



Officer Ballman



Officer Wiley

Seven Blue Ash Police Officers have been recognized in recent months for saving lives. Officer Ken Schrand has received the **Life Saver Recognition Award** three times this year for administering Narcan to three overdose victims, saving them from certain death. Officer Mark Owens has received the award twice. Officer William Fritts, Sergeant

Jun Cho, Officer Abby Ballman, Officer Chady Chahine, and Officer Brentenn Wiley also each received Life Saver Recognition Awards for reviving overdose victims with Narcan. "These Officers have gone above and beyond their normal call of duty," said Blue Ash Police Chief Scott Noel. "Despite risk and danger to themselves they took action and saved lives."

BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS 2020

The City of Blue Ash has announced the winners of the **2020 Beautification Contest!**

This year's Committee Choice Winners are Linda Peters and Blake Lindemann of Wengate Lane, Ed and Chris Ennis of Belleview Avenue and Carole Hadden of Cooper Road.

The Mayor's Choice Award Winner is the home of John Clark on Belleview Avenue.

The homes were nominated by the public, and were judged on general maintenance, garden variety, use of color, and overall appearance.

Vice Mayor Pramod Jhaveri and Councilmember Lee Czerwonka presented the awards to the winners at September 10 Council Meeting at the Blue Ash Nature Park.



Congratulations to the 2020 Beautification Award Winners!



MAYOR'S CHOICE

SUMMIT PARK WINS TWO FAMILY CHOICE AWARDS

Summit Park in Blue Ash is a winner in two categories of the **2020 Greater Cincinnati Family Choice Awards** presented by Cincy Magazine! Summit Park, 4335 Glendale Milford Road, has been selected as a winner in the Local Park category and in the Playground category. Park staff members wish to thank all those who voted and helped to make Summit Park an award-winner once again.



Fall Curbside Leaf Collection in the City of Blue Ash will continue until December 11. Here are a few guidelines to make the process easy and safe for all:

- Leaves should be brought to the curb or to the berm of the road if no curb exists. Please make sure leaves are not placed in the ditch line.
- Please do not mix any other yard waste items in with the leaves (such as grass, flowers, mulch, brush, trimmings).
- Leaves must be raked to the curb prior to 6:00 AM on Monday of each week to be collected that week.



OCTOBER 12 - DECEMBER 11

**FALL CURBSIDE
LEAF PICK-UP**



More info: www.blueash.com

AUDITOR OF STATE AWARD

The City of Blue Ash has received the **Ohio Auditor of State Award with Distinction** for excellence in financial reporting.

The award is the result of a clean audit report for 2019.

“To earn the Award with Distinction takes hard work and a committed fiscal team,” Ohio Auditor Keith Faber said. “Communities should be proud that stewards of tax dollars put in the extra effort to maintain clean records.”

To receive this award, the audit report must not contain any findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, Uniform Guidance (Single Audit) findings or questioned costs, and meet other criteria, according to a news release from the Auditor’s Office. “We are truly honored to re-



ceive this award,” said Blue Ash Tax/Finance Officer Natasha Dempsey. “Our team does great work and we are proud to be recognized once again for excellent financial reporting and compliance. We look forward to continuing such excellence.” Of the 6,000 entities audited by the State, only four percent receive this award.