

SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

AN IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT COVID-19 UPDATES AND INFORMATION:

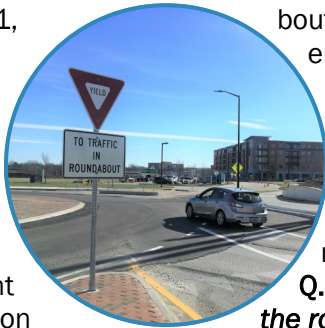
Due to the ever-changing planning and action being taken due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Blue Ash is asking residents to follow updates through Blue Ash social media, websites and e-newsletters. You can easily sign up for e-newsletters by texting BLUEASHNEWS to 22828 and entering your email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

ROUNDBABOUTS: QUESTIONS ANSWERED

In Summer of 2021, construction will begin on three **roundabouts** in the City of Blue Ash. These roundabouts will be located at the Plainfield Road and Hunt Road intersection, on Hunt Road at the Western Kroger entrance, and at the Plainfield Road and Peppermill Lane intersection. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions (FAQs):

Q. Why does Blue Ash need to construct these roundabouts?

A. The City conducted several studies to find out how to best ease congestion and increase safety at these intersections. These studies determined that roundabouts were the best course of action. In addition to safety improvements, roundabouts



roundabouts reduce vehicle emissions, have low maintenance costs and have the fewest impacts to surrounding residents and businesses.

Q. How much will the roundabouts cost?

A. The current estimate is approximately \$14.5 Million, which includes Engineering, Environmental, Right of Way, Construction and Construction Administration. \$11 Million of the project is funded by State and Federal grants.

Q. When will the roundabouts be completed?

A. The roundabout project is estimated to be completed in 2022.

Q. What roads will be closed during construction?

A. In most cases, traffic flow will be maintained. Any detours will be clearly marked.



The **Neighborhoods at Summit Park** is now offering virtual tours and accepting tenants. The first building in the development adjacent to Summit Park opened in March. In January, Higher Gravity announced it will be the first business tenant in the development. The bar, with over 400 types of beer, will be located in the first phase of the development designated "The Approach."

PLAINFIELD/HUNT CORRIDOR TIMELINE

LATE 1960'S

Planning begins on transportation options to connect the newly constructed I-275, I-71, and SR 126 (Cross County Highway)

1974

Environmental Impact Study performed on design alternatives which ultimately resulted in current Reed Hartman Highway alignment.

1977

Reed Hartman Highway is constructed from Cornell Road to Plainfield Road with Federal, State, and local funds.

2007

Traffic study performed to address significant congestion issues.

2013

Safety Study performed which identifies Plainfield/Hunt intersection as highest accident area in Blue Ash.

2015

Safety Study performed to address safety and congestion issues, while minimizing the right of way impact. The research examined various options including: lane widening, signal improvements and roundabouts.

2016

Plainfield/Hunt intersection cited as #12 in top 100 most dangerous intersections in Ohio.

2016

Blue Ash received grant funds from Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), ODOT Safety Funding and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STP) of more than \$11 million.

2017-PRESENT

Blue Ash public information campaign.

OAKWOOD PARK



The **Oakwood Park** Renovation Project was completed in early April and a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on June 11. The approximately \$400,000 park improvement project features a new community shelter, playground, grills and restroom facilities. It also includes an updated basketball court and additional parking. Construction of the Park was completed by Tumlin and Sons. Funds for the project were provided by Blue Ash Revitalization, Inc. and the Greater Cincinnati Foundation.

PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

Pedestrian improvements are coming to major intersections in Blue Ash in 2020.

A new crosswalk will be added along the south side of the Reed Hartman Hwy. and Glendale-Milford Rd. intersection. A new sidewalk will be installed to connect Alliance Rd. to the new crosswalk at Reed Hartman Hwy. and Glendale-Milford Rd.

In addition, a new crosswalk will be installed along the south side of the Reed Hartman Hwy. and Carver Rd. intersection, and a sidewalk will be installed on the south side of Carver Rd. from Reed Hartman Hwy. to Alliance Rd.

These projects will include crosswalk markings, pedestrian signals, new signage, and ADA curb ramps.



The 2020 Paving Program will also include these additional projects:

- Asphalt resurfacing, curb replacement, asphalt repairs, sidewalk repairs, and storm sewer repairs: Plainfield Rd., Sycamore Tr., Heather Ct., Ash Ct., Locust Ln., Ashwood Dr., Alpine Ave., Bellevue Ave., Cherry St., Summit Ave., Brittany Dr., Elizabeth Pl., Cynthia Ct., and Leadwell Ln.
- Installation of new Reflective Pavement Markers: Kenwood Rd. between Creek Rd. and Cornell Rd.

COUNCIL CORNER

In January, City Council held its biennial retreat to enhance Council relations and establish the City's two-year work plan. Highlights of the work plan include:

Downtown – Council initiated a moratorium on downtown development in July of 2019 while it reviewed multi-family development. Shortly after the retreat, Council removed multi-family residential from the zoning code's permitted uses, allowing it only through a planned unit development. During an April Workshop, Council discussed guiding principles for future downtown development and policies.

Historic Hunt House – Council approved structural repairs to the Hunt House at its March meeting.

Council Ward Redistricting – Further adjustments are needed to accommodate continued housing construction in Ward 3. Council reviewed staff's proposal for ward balancing at its June meeting.

Community Entertainment District (CED) & Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) – Council expressed interest in learning more about CEDs, which allow additional liquor permits, and DORAs, which allow alcohol to be carried outside within a defined geographic area at its January retreat. Both ideas were discussed at its June meeting. The City will move forward with the CED at Summit Park/Neighborhoods at Summit Park and will gather further information on DORAs.

NEW COUNCILMEMBER

The Blue Ash City Council has appointed **Jill Cole** to City Council, filling the vacancy left by Nikki Yasbeck-Schwieter. Cole serves as Councilmember At-Large and was officially appointed to the position on June 11.

"I am truly honored to be appointed to the Blue Ash City Council, and will work hard to be a positive voice for the citizens of Blue Ash," said Cole. Cole served on the Sycamore Community School Board from 2007-2015 and was the Board President for two years.

"Many of us have known Jill for years. She is a committed public servant and will be a great addition to Blue Ash City Council," said Mayor Marc Sirkin. "On behalf of Council, we welcome her and are looking forward to working with her for the citizens of Blue Ash."

Nikki Yasbeck-Schwieter announced in May that she would be resigning due to a move outside of the City.





In late November, the Ohio Power Siting Board approved Duke Energy's Central Corridor Pipeline Project along the western (alternate) route. In April, the City of Blue Ash filed a joint appeal to the Ohio Supreme Court opposing the Ohio Power Siting Board's approval of the Duke Energy Central Corridor Pipeline Project. Evendale, Reading, and NOPE are also parties in the joint appeal. These parties also filed a motion for stay pending appeal, which was denied on June 17, 2020. While the appeal continues, Duke will be contacting customers along the route, as necessary, to gather additional information and/or acquire easements. Duke will also be seeking construction permits.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT BLUE ASH EVENTS

Due to the uncertainty over future statewide COVID-19 restrictions and for the well-being of all, the City of Blue Ash had to make the difficult, but necessary decision to **cancel all events through June 14, Red, White & Blue Ash on July 4 and the Summer Concert Series through July 10.**

The goal is to bring you outstanding family-friendly events, but the top priority is the health and safety of residents, guests, vendors, performers and employees. Thank you for your patience and understanding as further changes could cause additional postponements or cancellations.

"These event cancellations are heartbreaking for staff and the visitors who enjoy them, but it is imperative that we do all we can to flatten the curve and protect each other during these unprecedented times," said Parks and Recreation Director Brian Kruse. "We look forward to coming out on the other side of this, and getting back to work on bringing you the best events in the region."

For updates, please visit blueashevents.com and facebook.com/BlueAshEvents. For information on the ways the City of Blue Ash is helping to stop the spread of COVID-19, please visit blueash.com.



All Blue Ash Parks and amenities are now open!

Download the new Blue Ash Recreation app or visit blueash.com for COVID-19 guidelines and recommendations.

MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

In lieu of an in-person Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony, the City of Blue Ash Parks and Recreation Department commissioned a **tribute video** to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. The touching video features a wreath laying ceremony conducted this year at the Blue Ash Bicentennial Veterans Memorial Park, photo and video highlights of past events, and insight from American Legion NE Post 630 Commander Jim Meyer and Blue Ash Mayor Marc Sirkin. View the video on the City's YouTube, Facebook and Twitter accounts.



THE OFFICIAL CITY OF BLUE ASH SUMMER NEWSLETTER

FARMERS MARKET AND FREE FITNESS AT SUMMIT

The **Blue Ash Farmers Market** is now open Wednesdays through September 30 from 3:30–7:00 p.m. at Summit Park with social distancing measures in place. (Guidelines can be found at summitparkblueash.com) Thank you to our 2020 vendors*:

Blue Oven Bakery
Can Du Farm
Crazy Acre Market Farm
Diane's Heavenly Desserts
Donna's Gourmet Cookies
Family Garden's
Jessie's Garden
Kartal Honey
McGlasson Farm
Pickled Paradise
Spice Spice Baby
Walnut Ridge Acres
White Oak Valley Farm
Winning Edge Mobile
Sharpening



*vendors subject to change

FREE FITNESS CLASSES AT SUMMIT PARK

No pre-registration; Just show up for these fun-filled classes to help you get in shape!*

Yoga

Sundays @ 9am 6/21 - 9/27
*No class on 7/5

Zumba with Lori Kaufman

Sundays @ 10:15am 6/21 - 9/27
*No class on 7/5

H.I.I.T. (high intensity interval training)

Mondays @ 5:30pm 6/15 - 8/31

Yoga with Stacy Shirley

Wednesdays @ 5:30pm 6/17 - 9/30

*times, dates and instructors subject to change