

# SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER

## CITY MOURNS LOSS OF COUNCIL MEMBER



Sadly, the City of Blue Ash recently said goodbye to one of its own. Councilman Mark F. Weber passed away unexpectedly in the afternoon of March 14, 2014. Councilman Weber was first elected to City Council in December of 2001. He recently served as Mayor from 2009 to 2013 and served as Vice Mayor from 2005 to 2009.

A life-long resident of Cincinnati, Councilman Weber was an attorney in private practice with Weber & Knapp Co., LPA. He was President and Chairman of the Board of New Foundation Savings Bank. Mark served on the Board of Directors at Boys Hope Girls Hope of Greater Cincinnati and Hero's Fund, and also was a member of the Sycamore Community Schools Planning Commission. A 1971 St. Xavier High School graduate, Mark received his undergraduate Business degree from Miami University in 1975, and graduated from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in 1978.

The Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Orchestra will dedicate its Memorial Day Concert to the memory of Councilman Weber, and Concertmaster Laura Proffitt will play the *Ashokan Farewell* as a tribute to him. The concert will be held at 6 PM on Monday, May 26 at Blue Ash Towne Square (rain site: Sycamore Junior High).

## SUMMIT PARK UPDATE

Summit Park's progress is continuing to create energy within the community and region. Since October 2013, construction crews have completed the underground infrastructure, which is necessary to support the future growth of the park. Recently, crews began focusing on more recognizable features sure to excite those awaiting the opening of Phase 1.



In early spring, elements of the 1-acre Contemporary Playground will be formed, asphalt parking lots will be finished, planter walls will begin to be installed, as well as foundations for restroom facilities. Shortly thereafter, the pergolas overlooking the Great Lawn will begin to rise, playground equipment will be installed, and the finishing touches on the Great Lawn sod will be in place. As summer approaches, the irrigation system which recycles water from the on-site ponds will begin to supplement the new plantings which are sure to become iconic to the beautiful park settings. By late summer, the first phase of the park will be unveiled to the community. Park-goers will be able to enjoy the massive Great Lawn surrounded by the promenade and pergolas featuring oversized swings as well as one of the region's best playgrounds; a draw for the community for decades to come. For more information, visit [www.blueash.com/summitpark](http://www.blueash.com/summitpark).

## CITY COUNCIL FILLS VACANT POSITION



At the Thursday, April 10 Council meeting, Dr. Marc Sirkin was sworn in as the City's newest Council member. Sirkin, a 16-year resident and local dentist, was offered the vacant Ward 5 position after the unexpected passing of Councilman Mark Weber.

"It was Mark Weber who motivated me to get involved in the City some 10 years ago. He impressed upon me how important it was for Blue Ash citizens to be involved and engaged in decisions and changes affecting their community," shared Councilman Sirkin.

Councilman Sirkin was on the Blue Ash Board of Tax Review from 2004-2006, the Blue Ash Airshow Committee from 2005-2009, and worked on the Citizens for Blue Ash Recreation Committee supporting Issue 15 in 2006. He was a member of the Blue Ash Board of Zoning Appeals and Site Arrangement from 2006-2014 and is also a Blue Ash-Ilmenau Committee Member. Councilman Sirkin has been practicing Dentistry in Blue Ash since 1988. He is a 1980 graduate of Walnut Hills High School and attended the Ohio State University for both undergraduate and graduate studies. He and his wife Wendy have been married for 25 years and their two sons, Benjamin and Austin, are both Sycamore Community School graduates. A private pilot since 2000, he also enjoys waterskiing and snow skiing.

## ANNUAL BEAUTIFICATION CONTEST BEGINS

The Blue Ash Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting submissions for the 2014 Beautification Contest, the annual neighborhood landscaping competition. Property owners have just over a month to prepare their lawns and gardens for Blue Ash Beautification Week, which runs Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup> through Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.

The winning four residential properties will be judged according to the type of plantings used, including garden variety and color, lawn area and tree maintenance, and overall appearance. One business award will also be determined by the

Parks Department. Yard signs will be distributed to the winners shortly after the judging takes place. Residents who have won in the past three years will not be eligible for 2014. Winners will be honored by Council at a September Council Meeting.



Interested property owners should contact Peggy Behm, Special Events Coordinator with Blue Ash Parks & Recreation at [pbehm@blueash.com](mailto:pbehm@blueash.com) or (513) 745-8644 no later than May 27.

## BAPD CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM



The Blue Ash Police Department has several officers and dispatchers who are certified Crisis Intervention Team members. These officers and dispatchers are specifically trained and certified to respond to calls for citizens with mental health issues who are in crisis or have nowhere else to turn for help. The officers are required to attend forty hours of special training, which is supported by the Hamilton County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board, NAMI Ohio, and Mental Health America of Southwest Ohio.

Through this specialized training, officers are better equipped to recognize and respond to a wide variety of mental health-related needs. They are taught to use crisis resolution skills and de-escalation techniques to help calm situations for a better resolution, and the officers have access to community-based services to get help to those in crisis. BAPD also has a Special Needs Awareness Program (SNAP) available to families in the Blue Ash area. This program is designed to improve interactions with law enforcement when loved ones are in crisis. For more information, visit [www.blueash.com/snap](http://www.blueash.com/snap) or call (513) 745-8555.

## FIRE HYDRANT MAINTENANCE SCHEDULED THROUGHOUT APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE

The Blue Ash Fire Department will be performing its spring service to fire hydrants within the City throughout April, May and June. This routine maintenance is important to assure continued proper operation of hydrants. Examples of the work to be performed on hydrants include:

- Flushing hydrants, which will cause sediment and the water to discolor until the sediment settles.
- Lubricating and operating the hydrants.
- Replacing worn parts.
- Weeding around hydrants.
- Selected hydrants will be flow tested, requiring large volumes of water to be run during a longer time to gather accurate readings related to water pressure and quantity.



Residents are respectfully reminded not to position plantings near hydrants to obstruct hydrants from view or to impede access by firefighters in case of an emergency.

BAFD will be placing yard signs near street entrances to identify the areas where they will be working. Residents living on these streets are advised to run water in their homes prior to use until the water appears clear. This is especially important before using water for drinking, bathing, or laundering. If residents find rust in their laundry water, they can go to the North Fire Station (10647 Kenwood Road) and ask for rust remover (supplied by Cincinnati Water Works). Citizens with questions or concerns should call the non-emergency number of the Fire Department at (513) 745-8533.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR CONTEST



The City of Blue Ash is looking for creative and talented photographers to contribute to the official 2015 Community Calendar.

Professional and amateur photographers are invited to submit their contest entries now through Friday, September 5 to enter the 2015 Calendar Contest. 13 photos will be chosen, one for each month and an overall calendar shot. Photos taken within the last 2 years are suitable for submission. This year's theme for the contest is "The Great Outdoors: Blue Ash Parks." The City is looking for photos that represent Blue Ash's many

outdoor parks throughout the four seasons of the year.

Once all entries have been submitted, they will be uploaded to the City of Blue Ash's Facebook page, [facebook.com/blueashohio](https://facebook.com/blueashohio), where individuals can vote for photos by "liking" individual photos. The voting period will take place Monday September 8 through Friday September 19, and the most popular photos will then be considered for the 2015 Blue Ash Community Calendar; however, the final decision will be made by the City of Blue Ash. Winners will then be notified by Friday, September 26. For complete details and rules, visit [blueash.com](http://blueash.com).

## BLUE ASH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

The City of Blue Ash is embarking on an update of its Comprehensive Plan, a guiding document that serves as the overall development/redevelopment plan for the City, influencing land use decisions and City investments. This process, conducted approximately every 10 years, involves a number of constituencies and participation.

Phase 1 of this process involved 6 focus groups representing Council, residents, staff, young professionals, developers, realtors, corporate citizens, and students. Facilitated by Greg Dale of McBride Dale Clarion, the sessions included a presentation, discussion/feedback, and a map exercise. Phase 2 sessions will provide a quick synopsis of the Phase 1 results and will solicit further direction from the public regarding several identified areas of interest.

**MAY  
19**

### PHASE 2 PUBLIC SESSIONS

Morning: 7:15–8:30 AM

Afternoon: 11:45–1:00 PM

Evening: 5:45–7:00 PM

All sessions will be held in the Rec Center Basement



If interested in attending, please register by emailing [frontdesk@blueash.com](mailto:frontdesk@blueash.com) by 5/14, or call (513) 745-8500 during normal business hours Monday through Friday.

For those who cannot attend on 5/19, there will be a facilitated open house on May 21 from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM and 4:00 – 6:00 PM in the Rec Center lobby. Thereafter, citizens can participate via an interactive display in the Rec Center lobby which will be posted for two weeks (5/21–6/4).

# MIO'S BLUE ASH SUMMER CONCERT SERIES 2014



Presented by Buddy Rodgers Music and Blue Ash Community Church

## THURSDAY LUNCH CONCERTS ON THE SQUARE

May 8— Anna & Milovan

May 15— Hauser & Kelly

May 22— Chris Comer Trio

May 29— Bacchanal Steel Band

Thursday Lunch Concerts are held on Blue Ash Towne Square (Hunt & Cooper Roads) and begin at 12PM

## TUESDAY NIGHT CONCERTS IN THE PARK

June 3— P & G Big Band

June 10— Sycamore Community Band

June 17— Sound Body Jazz Orchestra

June 24— Miami Steel Band

July 1— Cincinnati Brass Band

July 8— The Klüberheads

July 15— Retread Bluegrass Band

July 22— Ricky Nye Inc

July 29— UC Community Band

August 5— Monday Night Big Band

August 12— Ohio Military Band

August 19— Maple Knoll Big Band



Tuesday Night Concerts are held at the Nature Park Amphitheatre (4433 Cooper Road) and begin at 7 PM

## FRIDAY NIGHT CONCERTS ON THE SQUARE

June 6— Ooh La La

June 13— DV8

June 20— The Modulators

June 27— Forever Diamond

July 4— OneMain Financial Red, White, & Blue Ash\*

July 11— The Drysdales

July 18— The Soul Pocket Band

July 25— Robin Lacy and DeZydeco

August 1— Final Order

August 8— Jamison Road

August 15— The Remains

August 22— Taste of Blue Ash\*



Friday Night Concerts are held Blue Ash Towne Square (Hunt & Cooper Roads) and begin at 8 PM

\*The OneMain Financial RWBA & Taste of Blue Ash will both be held at Summit Park

## BAPD HOSTS OPEN HOUSE

**MAY  
14**

Wednesday, May 14  
5:00 PM—8:00 PM  
Blue Ash Police Department



The Blue Ash Police Department will host its first ever Open House on Wednesday, May 14 from 5 to 8 PM at the Municipal and Safety Center (4343 Cooper Road). The evening will include station tours, crime prevention information, vehicle displays, equipment demonstration, Hamilton County SWAT and Bomb Squad, TriHealth Safe Communities, K9 Demos, and much more. Food will be available, compliments of Donatos Pizza on Kenwood Road and Whit's Frozen Custard. This event is free and open to the public. Check out the Police Department's Facebook page ([facebook.com/blueashpolice](https://facebook.com/blueashpolice)) for details closer to the event. The event will be held rain or shine.

## PUBLIC WORKS HOSTS TOUCH-A-TRUCK EVENT

Saturday, May 24  
11:00 AM—2:00 PM  
Summit Park

**MAY  
24**



The Blue Ash Public Works Department will host a Touch-a-Truck Event on Saturday, May 24 from 11 AM to 2 PM at Summit Park (4335 Glendale-Milford Road). Equipment will be on display for children and adults to get a close-up look at the vehicles used around the City. Individuals can get their pictures taken and learn more about the Public Works Department. Vehicles will include a street sweeper, wheel loader, dump truck, mini excavator, snow plows, and more. Free ice cream from the Cone will also be available. The event will be canceled in the event of rain. For more information, visit [facebook.com/blueashohio](https://facebook.com/blueashohio).

## MEMORIAL DAY PARADE & CEREMONY

**MAY  
26**

Monday, May 26  
10:15 AM  
Cooper Road & Towne Square



The City of Blue Ash will host its annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony on Monday, May 26. The parade will begin on Reed Hartman Highway and Cooper Road at promptly 10:15 AM. The parade will proceed east on Cooper to Kenwood, south on Kenwood to Hunt, east on Hunt and end at the Bicentennial Veterans Memorial Park at Blue Ash Towne Square. A special ceremony will take place after the parade at approximately 11:30 AM. The keynote speaker will be Chief Master Sergeant Peri Rogowski from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

# SPRING HOME MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

Over the years, Blue Ash's community development goals have remained consistent: to help prevent the deterioration of neighborhoods by improving property maintenance, and to maintain the highest safety and sanitation standards for the many residential and non-residential properties in our community. The City's code sets minimum standards so a property owner clearly knows what maintenance is expected. It also provides assurance to those meeting the standards that their neighbors will do the same.

## GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUTS

Pull leaves and debris from gutters and downspouts. Reattach gutters that have pulled away from the house. Run a hose on the roof and check for proper drainage. If leaks exist, dry the area and use caulking or epoxy to seal the leak.

## GRASS, WEEDS AND OTHER VEGETATION

All premises and exterior property, including any right-of-way/easement bordering or crossing the property, shall be maintained free from weeds and grass in excess of 8 inches.

## YARD WASTE INCLUDING FALLEN TREE LIMBS AND DEBRIS

Shall be collected and properly removed from the premises.

## REFUSE, RUBBISH, AND GARBAGE

All exterior property and premises shall be free from any accumulation of refuse, rubbish and garbage. All refuse shall be disposed of properly. Garbage and refuse items for collection should be placed at the curb no earlier than 6:00 PM the day before and no later than 7:00 AM the morning of your collection day. All trash containers should be removed from the curb by 9:00 PM the evening of your collection.

## STORAGE OF TRASH CONTAINERS

Containers kept between a structure and a public street must be completely screened from view from the street. Trash containers located in a side or rear yard area, are not required to be screened, but shall be maintained and stored in a clean and orderly manner.

## OUTSIDE STORAGE

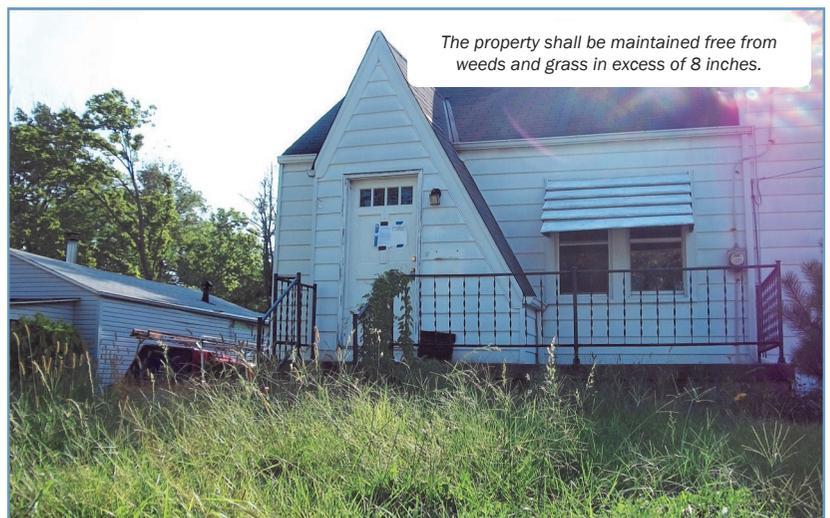
Landscape materials, tools, mowers, trimmers, or the like stored outside must be fully screened, on all sides so as not to be seen, and be behind the front building line of the house by a wall, storage cabinet, fence or landscaping.

## LANDSCAPE

Cut back and trim all vegetation and overgrown bushes from structures. Limbs and leaves can cut into your home's paint and force you to have that side of the house repainted.

The purpose of property maintenance ordinances is to maintain the public health, safety and welfare; to improve the appearance of our community and to protect property values. Please use the spring maintenance checklist to help you recognize potential violations on your property and take corrective action to preserve your property value and the character of your neighborhood. The City encourages everyone to take advantage of the warm spring weather and beautification season to ensure their property is compliant with City code.

For more information on the City's code, please call the Community Development office at (513) 745-8520.



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**THE OFFICIAL CITY OF BLUE ASH NEWSLETTER**

**MAY  
 28**

**LADIES LUAU  
 AT THE POOL**

Wednesday, May 28

Noon—3:00 PM

Blue Ash Recreation Center

Spend a relaxing day at the pool! Enjoy lunch, free samples from local businesses, music, swimming, and great prizes. This event is open to the public and costs \$12 per person.

Price includes lunch, but space is limited so purchase your tickets today at the Recreation Center or by calling (513) 745-8550.



Celebrate Independence Day with the **ENTIRE FAMILY** at the Biggest & Best Fireworks in the tri-state. Featuring **FREE** entertainment and a Family Fun Area! Cap the night with Rozzi's Famous Fireworks simulcast to **WARM 98!**

**LOCATED AT:** Summit Park (Plainfield & Glendale-Milford Roads)

**FRIDAY, JULY 4TH**

**Gates Open  
 4PM**

**Midnight Special  
 5:30PM**

**Information  
[blueashevents.com](http://blueashevents.com)**



**CHEAP TRICK  
 8:15PM**



**FIREWORKS  
 10PM**

