

SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER

BLUEASH SUMMIT PARK

Summit Park will be buzzing this summer with exciting new restaurants opening, completion of some major projects, and new construction starting. Residents can look forward to watching the observation tower materialize behind the Great Lawn. July will be marked by performances from Hotel California and Styx before the fireworks.



Brown Dog Café is now open and located in the Community Building.



Nanny Belle's and Senate are located in the Restaurant Building and plan to be open in the summertime and early fall, respectively.



From the deck of the observation tower, visitors can see all the way to Downtown Cincinnati.

Phase II is nearing completion and expected to be finalized in June. On July 14, the City will hold a dedication ceremony to recognize the conclusion of the second phase of construction at Summit. It includes the glass canopy, terrace, and two restaurant buildings. The first building includes a rentable room, additional restrooms, and Brown Dog Café. The spaces in the second building include Senate and Nanny Belle's Ice Cream, with a third nearing confirmation.

Phase III development includes a 125' tower with an observation deck, two large indoor/outdoor rental rooms, additional restrooms, and an overlook. Phase III will also bring a harvesting pond, nature playscape, meadows, and expanded trail network. Phase III construction has already begun and will be completed in late 2017. The rain harvesting ponds will collect Summit's rainwater in an effort to re-use it within the irrigation system to water the highly manicured areas. The collection is made possible by a series of drains, bioswales, underground retention reservoirs, and meadows.

The Farmers' Market began its second annual season at Summit Park on May 18. It is held weekly on Wednesdays from 3:30-7:00 PM and hosts between 15-20 local vendors.

Summer 2016 will boast national artists including Styx, Starship, 3 Doors Down, and Easton Corbin. Another first for the park this summer will be the hosted event, Buckle Up. The organization will use Summit Park as the venue, but it is not a City-sponsored event.

Comprehensive

City Council recently approved an updated Comprehensive Land Use Plan after a lengthy public input process. Differing from previous plans, it divides the City into six planning areas. The new plan emphasizes connectivity, quality of design and development, transitions between land uses, attractive corridors and gateways, and an “alive after five” concept.

The first step in implementing the new Land Use Plan was the establishment of architectural standards. Affecting new construction and significant alterations/additions in structures other than one and two-family residential, the architectural standards require a variety of quality building materials and diversity in building shape through the use of architectural features. They became effective on March 22, 2016. The full document outlining all of the standards is uploaded to the City website.

To remain competitive in an ever-changing economy, it is important that the City review its current development trends and define the vision for how the City wants to grow. This Land Use Plan establishes that vision and provides development guidelines that define the type, scale, and amenities that should be included with new and redevelopment projects.

The Comprehensive Land Use Plan is changing because Blue Ash and the nation are changing.

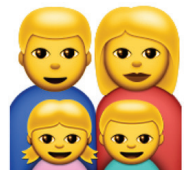


Since 1948, the average national household size has gone from 3.67 to 2.55.



There are huge challenges facing suburban office parks as millennials are attracted to companies located in a vibrant, walkable area that fits their lifestyle.

The number of married couples with children has gone from 40.3% in 1970 to 19.6% in 2012.



Local residents and businesses conceptualized these changes in 2014.

In a series of roundtable discussions, Blue Ash asked residents and businesses what they would like to see in the City, given the trends mentioned above. Their conversations developed the following principles:

“Blue Ash is interested in more housing options available for its current residents and to attract new residents to the City. The quality, design, location, and amenities associated with housing projects is critical.”

“Blue Ash is interested in improving bicycle and pedestrian connectivity between neighborhoods and developments and along major corridors.”

“Blue Ash wants to develop walkable, mixed-use employment campuses that include a variety of amenities including restaurants, entertainment, and services.”



“Blue Ash wants downtown to be a destination complete with a mix of activities, including entertainment, shopping, and dining.”

Land Use Plan

What are some of the current market trends to be watching for?



In the 1940s, people started moving out of their City apartments with the dream of owning a home in the suburbs. Personal vehicles made this trend more of a reality, and thus, America became saturated with a drivable suburban landscape. Recently, trends have been swinging back to the more walkable urban feel, with millennials flocking to the lifestyle centers. This is a result of many things, including the cost of maintaining cars, the absence of children until later in life, and a boredom with suburbanism.



Since most jobs that are being created, especially in Blue Ash, are in the knowledge/experience economy, companies are looking to hire recent graduates, or young professionals, all of whom are millennials. For companies to hire the most desirable candidates, they need to be confident that the new-hires will want to work where the company is located. Competition for these IT gurus will only grow as the global economy is pushed further onto an online platform. The Creative Class is demanding the option of walkable, lifestyle urbanism.

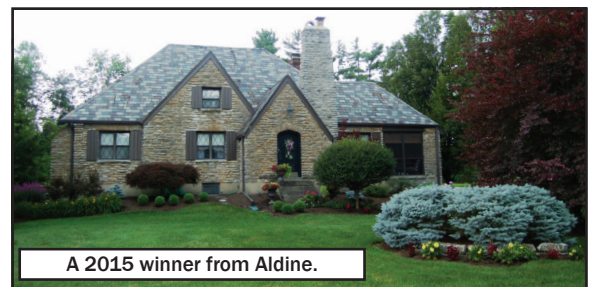
ANNUAL BEAUTIFICATION CONTEST

Nominations accepted May 1 - June 1.

Judges will view homes the week of June 6.

Winners honored by Council in September.

The Blue Ash Parks and Recreation Department began accepting submissions on May 1 for the 2016 Beautification Contest. This contest is an annual neighborhood landscaping competition where anyone within the City limits can be nominated. Property owners have several weeks to prepare their lawns and gardens for the Blue Ash Beautification judging period, which runs from Monday, June 6 through Friday, June 10.



The Blue Ash Beautification judging period, which runs from Monday, June 6 through Friday, June 10.

Four winners will be chosen; three will be the Beautification Award Winners, and one will be the Mayor's Choice. The homes 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 the 2016 awards. Those homes that are victorious will be honored by Council at the September Council Meeting with awards distributed at this time. Interested property owners should contact Peggy Behm with Blue Ash Parks and Recreation at events@blueash.com or 513 745-8644.



PROPOSED CHANGES TO CITY CHARTER

The City Charter that governs Blue Ash may be adapting this year. These changes will not increase taxes, they are simply to improve operations.

In order to bring Blue Ash in line with other municipalities, City Council has proposed the following Charter revisions for consideration at the November 2016 election.

- 1 Adjust council terms from 2 to 4 years
- 2 Create staggered terms for council
- 3 Make council elections non-partisan
- 4 Make the majority of legislation resolutions, leaving ordinances for legislature that becomes codified
- 5 Remove council representative from Planning Commission
- 6 Allow for alternate members on Planning Commission and BZA/BSA
- 7 Eliminate the need to read legislation aloud at meetings
- 8 Allow for flexibility in publication requirements

Open House May 26 at 6:00 PM.

A first reading of the proposed revisions occurred at the May 12 Council meeting. Council will hold an open house to discuss the changes before the May 26 Council meeting and vote in Council Chambers. The revisions will be on the November 2016 ballot.



CHANGES IN TAX CODE

Just when you thought you were done with taxes, the 2016 tax year is already underway and there are some changes to keep in mind.

The State legislation known as “House Bill 5” made substantial changes to ORC§718, which governs municipal income tax laws, effective with the 2016 tax year. As a result, a new City Income Tax Ordinance was required in order to be compliant with the new statutes. The City finalized its new ordinance on November 12, 2015.

Residents - Important Notice

Beginning with tax year 2016, **all residents** 18 and over will be required to file a Blue Ash tax return even if no tax is owed. The first mandatory filing will be due by April 17, 2017. More information will be mailed to residents later this year. If you do not have an account set up or you would like to check the status or update your account, please call the Tax Office at 745-8516.

Businesses - Noteworthy Changes

- All withholdings are due on or before the 15th of the month after the corresponding month's or quarter's end.
- Quarterly estimate due dates and calculations have changed.
- Penalty and interest charges have changed.
- Occasional rules have changed from 12 to 20 days and have expanded definitions.
- More details are on the FAQs page in the Tax Department at blueash.com.

Mio's® PIZZERIA BLUE ASH Blue Ash Summer Concert Series

PRESENTED BY:



TUESDAY NIGHTS IN THE PARK 7:00 - 9:00pm

June 7 Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra
June 14 Sycamore Community Band
June 21 Ooh La La Unplugged
June 28 P&G Big Band
July 5 NO CONCERT
July 12 Keith Jones & the Makeshifts
July 19 UC Alumni Band
July 26 Cincinnati Brass Band
Aug. 2 Maple Knoll Big Band
Aug. 9 Honey & Houston
Aug. 16 Blair Carman & the Belleview Boys
Aug. 23 Pete Wagner Band



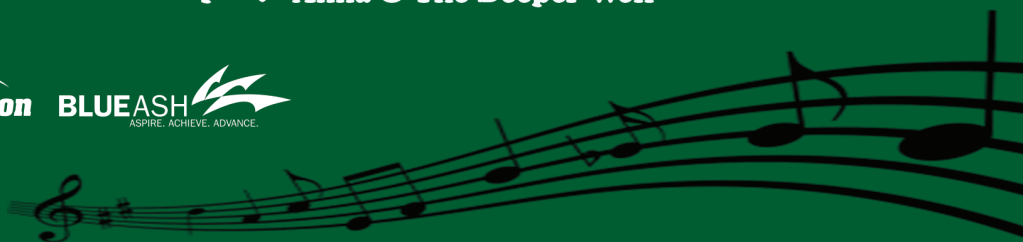
FRIDAY NIGHTS ON THE SQUARE 8:00 - 11:00pm

June 3 The Soul Pocket
June 10 School of Rock
June 17 Forever Diamond
June 24 Shut Up & Drive
July 1 NO CONCERT
July 8 Final Order
July 15 Second Wind
July 22 Stagger Lee
July 29 The Drysdales
Aug. 5 Robin Lacy & DeZydeco
Aug. 12 My Sister Sarah
Aug. 19 The Remains

Warm98
80s 90s & NOW

THURSDAY AFTERNOON CONCERTS ON THE SQUARE 12:00 - 1:30pm

Sep. 1 Young Heirlooms
Sep. 8 Runaway Sidecar
Sep. 15 Ooh La La Unplugged
Sep. 22 John Ford
Sep. 29 Anna & The Deeper Well



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND CEREMONY

Monday, May 30
10:15 AM

MAY
30

Parade travels east from Reed Hartman Highway on Cooper, and
ends at Towne Square
Ceremony at Towne Square



The City of Blue Ash will host its annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony on Monday, May 30, 2016. The event is also sponsored by the Blue Ash Civic League.

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 on Blue Ash Towne Square. Over 55 groups will participate in the parade, which range from military and non-profit organizations to local businesses and community groups. The Cincinnati Warbirds are also anticipated to perform a flyover during the parade, weather dependent.



POLICE DEPARTMENT HOSTS BIKE RODEO

Saturday, June 4
12:00-3:00 PM
Blue Ash Target

JUNE
4

The annual Bike Rodeo will be held at Target on June 4. Blue Ash Police, Fire, and Public Works will participate in the event, which will feature safety information, face painting, snacks, free helmets from Children's Hospital, an obstacle course, and giveaways. The Ohio State Highway Patrol and Chase Bank will also be present at the event with displays and fun giveaways. Grant Brueshaber from Velofix Cincy will be there to perform free bike maintenance from 12:00-2:00 PM.



DUKE PROPOSES PIPELINE EXTENSION

Duke has proposed a project called the Central Corridor Gas Pipeline Extension Project that has the potential to impact Blue Ash residents.



Blue Ash residents should be aware that Duke Energy is proposing a natural gas pipeline project from the northern boundary of Hamilton County near the intersection of Hamilton, Warren, and Butler counties and end in either the Norwood or Fairfax area. Duke Energy is proposing three routes, which all impact Blue Ash. Duke Energy will be working with the Ohio Power Siting Board to decide on the final location. Blue Ash administration and elected officials are monitoring the proposed project, but do not have any additional details on the specific location or route at this time.

The authority of the project is in the hands of the OPBS, which is a separate entity within the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). The project requires Duke Energy to apply for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need from the OPSB in Columbus, OH. This application has not yet been filed, but when it is, the City will be notified and will receive a copy of the application. At that time, the City has 30 days to evaluate and decide how to move forward.

Blue Ash City Council has heard from concerned residents on the safety of the project, the community impact, and environmental concerns. As a result, individual councilmembers have written letters to the PUCO and a resolution expressing concerns was enacted at the May 12 City Council meeting. To learn more about this project, visit Duke Energy's Central Corridor Gas Pipeline Extension Project website. To voice your comment or concern, visit the Public Utilities of Ohio website regarding Case 16-0253-GA-BTX.

DEVELOPERS OF FORMER AIRPORT HOST OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, June 8

3:00-7:00 PM

Cooper Creek Event Center

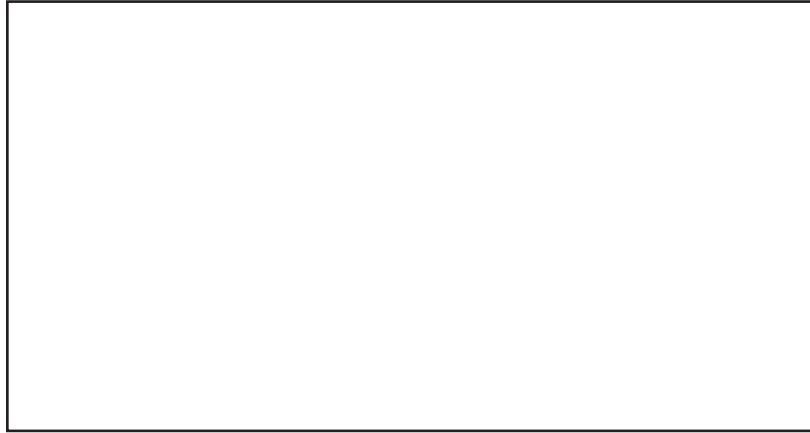
Al Neyer, the development team for the 98 acres at the former airport property, will be hosting an open house event at the Cooper Creek Event Center to discuss residents' and businesses' thoughts on the development. The discussions hope to gauge how people feel about all the different options for the land.

The 98 acres was recently called "a gem" in the Cincinnati Business Courier, and has the potential to bring more vibrancy to the community because of its location. Being a "greenfield" space in the middle of a number of business parks, abutting a premier park in the region, makes it one of the most desirable parcels in the market.

Al Neyer's preliminary plans include mixed use developments with offices, restaurants, residential, and recreational spaces. Their goal is to help revitalize the space that has been sparsely used for years.

Light refreshments will be served.





THE OFFICIAL CITY OF BLUE ASH SPRING NEWSLETTER

Monday, July 4, 2016

4:00 - 10:35 PM - Summit Park

Entertainment Schedule:

4:00 PM Gates Open

5:30 PM Hotel California

8:15 PM



10:00 PM Fireworks by Arthur Rozzi Pyrotechnics



Presented By:



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