

WINTER 2014/2015 NEWSLETTER



The Children's Playground at Summit Park opened on August 9, 2014 and continues to draw families from around the region.

PROGRESS CONTINUES AT SUMMIT PARK

Summit Park continues to progress as we edge closer to the end of 2014. With Phase One's Grand Opening now a past chapter in the Summit Park story, the success of the initial phase has proven evident as the ever popular Children's Playground within the 130-acre park draws in families from around the region. Crowds of over 200 people were common each hour every day throughout the first 2 months of the playground's life. The popularity of the region's best playground is simply a sign of what's to come.



A view from under the Phase 2 glass canopy

If Phase 1 sent a message to the region about what Summit Park will entail, Phase 2 will officially put the park on the map and connect the dots for convenient usage for park goers. The 7,000 square foot Community Building, which will serve as the heart of the park, recently attracted a Letter of Intent from the Brown Dog Café to fulfill nearly 4,000 square feet of the 1st floor. The remainder of the building and the full basement will house park utilities and operations. Phase 2 will also consist of the iconic quarter-acre Glass Canopy that will sit next to the Community Building. This indoor/outdoor amenity will be the front door to the park and provide the perfect location for programming and events.

A picnic grove is also planned near the Glass Canopy to provide the perfect location for everyday usage as well as special events. The opposite end of the Great Lawn will feature the Performance Stage. The flat-work of the stage is currently under construction and set to be completed before the end of winter. The stage will be the future home of national entertainers performing at the City's annual Red, White & Blue Ash celebration, the Taste of Blue Ash as well as other future events the park welcomes in. Phase 2 construction is set to begin within the next several weeks and expected to be completed in the second half of 2015.

For more information, visit www.blueash.com/summitpark.

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS & INVISIBLE FENCES ON PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

What is the public right-of-way? Streets and sidewalks are for everyone's use. They add value to private property by providing access and a way to get to other places in the City. When property is developed, property owners dedicate part of the land as "public right-of-way" for streets, sidewalks, utilities and similar public uses. The width of the right-of-way can vary from street to street.

The installation of an irrigation system or invisible fence is not permitted on the public right-of-way. Residents should contact the City prior to installation to determine where the public right-of-way meets their

private property. The City or their contractors have the right to excavate, maintain or make installation for any necessary public purpose on public right-of-way. The City is not responsible for any damage to irrigation systems or invisible fences that have been installed on public right-of-way.



All sprinkler heads should be directed so water will not spray into the public roadway or public sidewalk when in operation. In addition to these types of installation, vegetation, decorative rocks, or other items are not permitted in the right-of-way. The City has the right to request removal of any obstructions or encroachments via Codified Ordinance 905.12. If you have questions concerning the location of the right-of-way, please contact the City.

CORPORATE CITIZENS GIVE BACK TO THE CITY



A huge thank you goes out to two Blue Ash based businesses for helping make the City a beautiful place to live, work and play! On Saturday, September 27, dozens of volunteers from Toyota (4550 Creek Road) and Blue Ash Elementary spent the morning on Alliance Road planting trees and perennials. Similarly, volunteers from Sunny Delight (10300 Alliance Road) spent the morning of Tuesday, September 30 removing honeysuckle and overgrown trees near a catch basin adjacent to Belcan, and also planted new trees in the area.



COMMUNITY GARDENS PROGRAM RETURNS IN 2015

The Community Garden Program at the historic Hunt House will celebrate its 7th year in 2015. The concept was initiated by resident Ann Scranton and the City in 2009 to provide the opportunity for gardeners to exercise their green thumbs.

Between January 1 and April 1, interested participants should email their name, address, and

phone number to Mandi Brock (mbrock@blueash.com) to be eligible for a plot. By mid-April, all gardeners will be notified if they were selected for a plot. There is a cost of \$25 per garden plot, which covers several improvements at the gardens (running water at the garden site, fencing, and raised beds). The City provides the land, soil preparation (including additional compost), and water. Gardeners are responsible for doing all of the planting, providing seeds and materials, and are required to provide continual maintenance of their plot throughout the growing season. Gardeners often plant corn, squash, tomatoes, peppers, beans, and cucumbers. Eligible participants must be residents of Blue Ash. If you have any questions, please call (513) 686-1277.

The benefits of the Community Garden Program exceed the plants and crops harvested at the site, as it can give individuals from different cultures and socio-economic groups the chance to meet and interact. Along with this, it gives community members the opportunity to improve social networks between neighbors, foster networking between geographically separate neighborhoods, and teach leadership skills with a sense of community responsibility. It provides the chance to become more in touch with the Earth and its natural resources.

NEW YEAR, NEW HABITS: BLUE ASH MAKES RECYCLING EASY

As 2014 comes to a close, the City of Blue Ash encourages its residents to continue recycling throughout 2015. Waste and recycling collection is provided free of charge by the City through a contract with Rumpke. Rumpke provides a Rumpke-owned 96-gallon waste wheeler and a Rumpke-owned recycling container (16-gallon red bin or 65-gallon green cart) both at no charge to residents. To order a waste/recycling container, please call (513) 745-8538 weekdays 8AM–5PM, or email jward@blueash.com.

Blue Ash also has several recycling drop-off locations around the City, which is open to the public and businesses. These drop-off locations are free and serve the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Recycling should be placed loosely into the containers, no sorting necessary. Dumping of garbage or non-recyclable materials is illegal at these locations, as is the removal of any recyclable materials for personal gain.

- Blue Ash Nature Park, 4343 Cooper Road (next to the Blue Ash Police Department)
- UC Blue Ash, 9555 Plainfield Road (north end of the parking lot)
- Blue Ash Sports Center, 11540 Grooms Road (north end of the main entrance)





SNOW REMOVAL TIPS & REMINDERS

Residents can make snow removal easier and more efficient for our crews. A few suggestions of how you can help when it snows:

- Even if a snow emergency is not declared, please avoid parking vehicles on the street. This allows plows to clear the entire street, and also not block access to your vehicle as the driver cannot control the snow coming off the edge of the plow's blade.
- Please do not shovel or plow snow into the streets. By shoveling the snow into your yard (rather than the street), you will reduce the frustration of the snowplow re-covering the end of your driveway that you already cleared.
- Allow extra time for driving, and take the time to remove all ice and snow from your car. Good visibility is essential, and reducing the chance of snow flying off your vehicle is important for you and other drivers.
- Do not pass a snowplow truck. Each truck has blind spots reducing side and rear visibility. If you cannot see their mirrors, then they cannot see you.
- Increase following distance between your vehicle and others. Also allow for safe distances between your vehicle and a salt truck to reduce the chance of loose materials striking your car and to give you more time to react to sudden stops.

BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER: HEATING TIPS FROM THE BLUE ASH FIRE DEPARTMENT

As cooler temperatures approach, the Blue Ash Fire Department would like to stress the importance of safety when heating your home this winter.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment (furnace, space heaters, fire place, etc.)
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters
- Never use your oven to heat your home
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating or central heating equipment and water heaters according to local codes and manufacturer's instructions
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide (CO) alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning
- Always use the right kind of fuel, as specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room
- Ashes should be cool before putting them into a metal container; keep the container a safe distance away from your home



CALENDAR WINNERS

Cover Photo: *Summit Park* by Mike Bigalke



Those receiving this newsletter via mail are also receiving the 2015 Blue Ash Community Calendar. Our calendar features the City's schedule for the year and contains stunning photography of Blue Ash submitted by residents, community members, and visitors.

This year, over 100 photos were submitted for the contest, which is themed "The Great Outdoors: Blue Ash Parks." The City appreciates everyone's participation in the contest, and wishes you a safe and happy 2015!



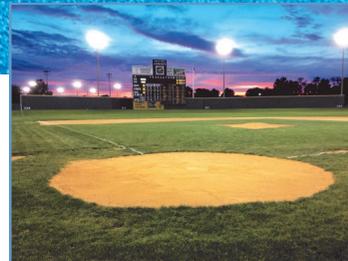
January
Cooper Creek in the Winter
Larry Bresko



February
Snowy Hillside Fun
Terrence Huge



March
Swing into Spring at Hunt Park
Terrence Huge



April
Sunset over Crosley Field
Landon Bell



May
Cornhole on the Great Lawn
Tracy Doyle



June
And the Band Played On
Terrence Huge



July
Summit Sparklers
Dr. Fred Peck



August
Summit Park Children's Playground
Mike Bigalke



September
Forest Sanctuary
Amy Zylka



October
Nature's Colors
Bernie Clemens



November
Winter Light
Bernie Clemens



December
Snow Princess with a Sled
Peter Nord

RECREATION CENTER RECEIVES 2014 ARTSWAVE GRANT

The Blue Ash Recreation Center recently received a \$2,550 grant from ArtsWave, supported by The Jacob G. Schmidlapp Trusts. With this grant, the Recreation Center can provide the public with multiple plays and workshops. This is just one of the many ways the Recreation Center continues to serve the community by offering free or low cost programming to the public. These events are open to the public, but pre-registration is required. Call (513) 745-8550 for more information. All events are held at the Blue Ash Recreation Center.

FEB 7 **PLAYHOUSE IN THE PARK**
“THEORY OF MIND”
Saturday, February 7, 7:00 PM
“Theory of Mind” by Ken LaZebnik is recommended for ages 11 & up. This performance is free.

MAR 1 **MADCAP PUPPETS**
“LONG LOST STORIES”
Sunday, March 1, 2:00 PM
Join two young explorers as they discover the trunk and are immediately captured by its secrets and the Long Lost Stories inside. This performance is free.

APR 11 **PLAYHOUSE IN THE PARK**
“BIRD BRAIN”
Saturday, April 11, 7 PM
“Bird Brain” by Vern Thiessen (based on the story *Vogelkopp* by Albert Wendt) is recommended for ages 5 & up. This performance is free.

APR 18 **ENSEMBLE THEATRE**
PLAY IN A DAY WORKSHOP
Saturday, April 18, 10 AM–1 PM
Recommended for 2nd-7th graders, this workshop allows children to write, design, build and perform an original play, all in the span of 3 hours. There is a \$5 fee per participant, and registration is required.

BAPD RECEIVES MULTIPLE AWARDS



Chief Paul Hartinger was recognized on October 10 at the annual Hamilton County National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) awards for “Excellence in Crisis Intervention Team.” Chief Hartinger has engaged the entire Blue Ash Police Department, surrounding jurisdictions, and has even traveled to the State level to advocate mental health training for law enforcement. He has set a goal that 100% of the street patrol be Crisis Intervention Team Trained, which includes BAPD supervisors and dispatchers. Chief Hartinger knows that providing officers with the tools to do their job has a positive impact on the affected individuals and families in crisis, and perhaps improves their quality of life in the long run.



Officer Beth Roach received the Ohio Distinguished Law Enforcement Community Service award from Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine on October 29 in Columbus, Ohio. Officer Roach is very active in the Latino Community, with a goal of improving the relationship between the police and the Latino communities through education and increased communication. Officer Roach makes regular radio appearances on LaMega 97.7 FM on Monday mornings, where she hosts a forum and answers questions listeners have about the police. Officer Roach is also a Crisis Intervention Team member trained to work with the developmentally disabled and special needs population. Furthermore, she serves as a DARE officer, Neighborhood Liaison Officer, ALICE trainer, and works closely with the Off the Streets Program.

BLUE ASH PROTECTS NEIGHBORHOODS: PARKING & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE UPDATES

In an ongoing effort to keep the City attractive, Blue Ash City Council approved several updates to the City's codes on September 11, 2014. The updates include:

PARKING

- No vehicles may be parked in a yard except on a driveway
- No vehicle or trailer in excess of 32' may be parked in a residential district
- Recreational vehicles shall only be parked in a side or rear yard (in a driveway), except in limited circumstances as prescribed by the City's code 351.03(a)23

JUNK CAR

- “Junk car” is defined as: Apparently inoperable AND extensively damaged, including, but not limited to, any of the following: deflated, wrecked, or missing tires or rims; missing or wrecked body parts; broken or missing headlights; tail lights or brake lights; broken, cracked or missing windows or windshields; missing all or part
- “Junk motor vehicle parts” means portions of motor vehicles, including, but not limited to, hoods, fenders, radiators, rims, motor parts, not being utilized for the repair of a motor vehicle
- Junk cars and junk motor vehicle parts shall not be kept on any private property unless such is fully enclosed within a garage or other suitable permanent structure



ABANDONMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

No person shall abandon any motor vehicle on any public or private property within the corporate limits of the City. A vehicle will be considered abandoned if it is left for more than twenty-four (24) hours on private property without the permission of a person having the right to the possession of the property, or if it is left for more than forty-eight (48) hours on a public street or other property open to the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking, or within the right-of-way of any road or highway.

SANITATION

All exterior property shall:

- Be maintained in a clean, safe, neat and sanitary condition;
- Be free from noxious and tall weeds, refuse, litter, broken concrete, rocks, vehicle tires, broken glass, wood pallets, crates, dead grass piles, chemicals, oils, solvents, gasoline, paints, pesticides, cleaners, batteries, stoves, sinks, bath tubs, toilets, storage containers and bins, coolers, old buckets and plant pots, rubbish or garbage, shopping carts, inoperative vehicles/equipment/machinery, lumber, building supplies and materials, any household items including furniture designed or intended for interior use or vehicle parts or the like;
- Be free from overgrown, uncontrolled vegetation, shrubs, trees, and vines that are conducive to the accumulation of refuse, debris or vermin;
- Be free from tree debris, limbs, or other portions of any tree on the ground;
- Be free from decorative material that is weathered or in disrepair.

Every dumpster within the City shall be constructed and maintained so as to be leak proof and shall be equipped with a close fitting, permanently attached, rigid cover which shall be kept fully closed except when the same is being loaded or unloaded. No cover shall be deemed closefitting unless the force of gravity, and/or latch provided and in service keeps the same fitting so no gap between the cover and frame exceeds one-half inch.

The City appreciates your cooperation in keeping Blue Ash beautiful!

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT MATTHEW 25

The holidays are a wonderful time to volunteer as an individual, a family, a business or church group, and Matthew 25: Ministries is the perfect volunteer opportunity. Matthew 25 welcomes volunteers Monday-Friday from 9AM - 4PM and Saturday from 9AM - 3PM

(groups of 4 or more please call ahead to reserve a time). Matthew 25 has volunteer opportunities for people of all ages (please check m25m.org for adult/child ratio guidelines) and all levels of health and capacity. Bring a canned good for Matthew 25's Fighting Hunger Food Drive benefiting local pantries and shelters. Contact Anita (anita@m25m.org) or Shelly (shelly@m25m.org) for more information, or visit www.m25m.org.



UPCOMING BLUE ASH/MONTGOMERY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERTS

“A Celtic Christmas”
A traditional beginning to the holiday season
Sunday, December 7, 2014
7:00 PM
Montgomery Assembly of God Church
7950 Pfeiffer Road in Montgomery

“Valentine’s Day/Young Artists Concerto Competition Concert”
Sunday, February 22, 2015
7:00 PM
Sycamore Junior High
5757 Cooper Road

2015 BLUE ASH HISTORICAL SOCIETY DATES

Visit blueashhistoricalsociety.org for more information

January 13	February 10	March 10	April 11	July 11	October 10	December 12
Meeting at the Blue Ash Rec	Meeting at the Blue Ash Rec	Meeting at the Blue Ash Rec	Hunt House Open House			
7 PM	7 PM	7 PM	1-4 PM	1-4 PM	1-4 PM	1-4 PM



UC BLUE ASH COLLEGE BLOG

Check out the new UC Blue Ash College blog, UCBA NOW for the latest news from the college. Find information about events on campus that are open to the community, learn more about student success tips, and watch videos with students and alumni about their experience at UC Blue Ash. You can find this and more at www.ucblueash.edu/now/.