

CITY OF BLUE ASH COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



WINTER 2007/2008

2008 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS...

Below is a summary of the major efforts planned by your City government in 2008. Please note that not all City efforts are listed and that dollar figures are estimated:

PUBLIC SAFETY -- Police & Fire ...

- Funding to replace and equip five police vehicles (\$150,000).
- Funding to replace and equip an emergency life squad unit (\$165,000).
- New fire hydrants to accompany planned water line improvements (most in the Arcadia and Floral Avenue neighborhoods).
- New or replacement emergency equipment for the Fire Department, including GPS units in a number of vehicles.
- Installation of a new antenna at the North Fire Station to further enable capabilities of the emergency operations center in the

basement, to be used in event of a natural or other disaster (\$10,000).

PUBLIC WORKS...

- Continued funding for City-paid waste collection and recycling services for residents. March 1, 2008 begins the third year in the current contract with Rumpke (\$770,000).
- Funding to complete the Blue Ash/Hunt Road improvement project, with this project bid award expected in late 2007. This road improvement project, which will also include curb and gutter and sidewalk improvements, will be partially funded through a ten-year, no-interest loan administered through the State/Hamilton County (total project cost expected to be \$3,100,000).

(Budget Highlights continued on Page 2.)

UPDATE ON REC CENTER, GOLF COURSE & FUTURE PARK

Here's the latest (as of late Nov. 2007) on the Rec Center project, future Golf Course improvements, and the future airport park, all made possible by an amendment to the City's Charter approved by Blue Ash voters in fall 2006. Note too that additional info and graphics are included on the June page of the 2008 Community Calendar. We encourage you to periodically check BlueAsh.com for additional news and project updates ...

Recreation Center Renovation...

Construction on Phase I of the Rec Center improvements (the new gym portion of the project) is nearing completion at the end of 2007. Bid specifications and documents are being finalized and readied for public bidding of Phase II of the project, which consists of the bulk of the improvements along the Cooper Road side of the building. Bidding will take place in early 2008, with bid awards expected by Council thereafter. Construction on Phase II improvements should begin soon afterwards. The City hopes for construction to be complete by late 2008, or possibly spring 2009.

A summary of the Phase II work includes demolition of the older (1979) portions of the Cooper Road side of the building, and reconstruction of a new area to accommodate a two-story fitness center; an elevated three-lane running/walking track which will be one-tenth of a mile in length), new men's and women's locker room areas, and a basement. Plans also include a second main

(Project Update article continued on Page 3.)

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

You cast your ballots, Blue Ash, and it's official! The results of the Blue Ash City Council election held November 6th are ...

- James W. Sumner, Ward 1
- Stephanie Stoller, Ward 2
- Rick Bryan, Ward 3
- Robert J. Buckman, Jr., Ward 4
- Mark F. Weber, Ward 5
- Henry S. Stacey, At Large
- Lee Czerwonka, At Large

All Council positions this year were uncontested, and all elected Council representatives are incumbents.

As described in the Blue Ash Charter, Council representatives are elected to

Council as either "At Large" (representing the entire city) or specific ward representatives. It is then the responsibility of the elected Council representatives to select a Mayor and a Vice Mayor from among the elected membership. The Charter specifies that Council members are elected to serve two-year terms, with current terms ending November 30, 2009. At the December 3rd Swearing-In ceremonies, Council members formally re-appointed Jack Buckman as the Mayor and Mark Weber as the Vice Mayor, both chosen to serve a second term in their respective position.

Congrats to all Council members, and thanks to Blue Ash citizens who took the time to vote!

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- Continuation of the multi-year effort with the City Engineer's office to identify and map the City's storm drainage pipes, culverts, bridges, manholes, and other storm water systems to improve awareness of the scope and condition of the entire network.
- Continued efforts to improve general "connectivity" through Blue Ash among the City's neighborhoods, businesses, and other facilities, including construction and installation of sidewalks along the south side of Creek Road between Reed Hartman and Kenwood Road (\$370,000). Additional connectivity-type projects may be completed as funding is available.
- Storm sewer improvements to parts of the Wynnecrest Drive area (\$80,000); and engineering, inspection and adjustment to the water detention system serving the City's facilities on Cooper Road (\$18,000).
- Cab and chassis to replace an existing '92 truck, including a snow plow (\$80,000).
- Continuation of the yearly upgrade to the City's traffic signals with LED (light emitting diode) capability. LED provides benefit of reduced energy use and greater capacity for powering the signal with battery backup in the event of an outage (\$30,000).
- Installation of a left-turn signal on southbound Kenwood Road to eastbound Zig Zag Road (\$5,000).
- Annual street paving program (\$940,000). Several streets planned for repaving include Reed Hartman between Peppermill and Malsbary), Alpine Ave., Kenwood Rd. between Ronald Reagan and the south corporation limit, part of Mohler Rd., McKinley Rd., and the Floral Ave. neighborhood. The latter project will be completed following water main upgrades planned by Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW), with GCWW to pay half the costs of paving.
- Further engineering and analysis of the Plainfield corridor (including the Plainfield/Hunt intersection) to determine optimum solution and timing for potential future improvements.
- Design work associated with intended upgrade to downtown Blue Ash traffic signals. A grant has been secured which will provide over two-thirds of the funding for replacement of the traffic signals in the downtown area. The City's "match" for this project is expected to be about \$200,000 (to be included in the 2009 Budget).

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT...

- Continued funding for economic development incentives, intended for use with large, desirable business prospects (\$300,000).
- Continued funding to participate in the Greater Cincinnati Chamber's partnership program to assure Blue Ash's competitiveness with neighboring communities to retain and attract quality employers and maintain or enhance the existing tax base.
- Continued efforts to enhance downtown (\$850,000).

PARKS & RECREATION...

- Funding to complete Phase II of the Rec Center renovation project. See separate article in this newsletter for project details.
- Continuation of the current level of major special events, including SummerBration in late May/early June; Red, White & Blue Ash on July 4th; Taste of Blue Ash in late August; and Heritage Day in October.
- Continuation of year-round rec programming, such as the Tuesday and Friday summer concert series, and the year-round classes, programs, and leagues offered. Due to Rec Center construction underway and continuing in 2008, some classes, programs, and leagues may be limited.
- Additional fitness equipment, "funbrellas," picnic tables, and other equipment for the pool area (\$100,500).
- A new misting "funbrella" for the tennis court area (\$5,200).
- Continued financial support for the Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Orchestra (\$22,000). See the "Community Bulletins" article for 2008 concert dates.
- Enhancements to the Hunt House property, such as landscaping, signage, and other minor improvements (\$22,000).
- Replacement equipment for Parks Maintenance activities, including a truck and snow plow, leaf and trash clean-up unit, and utility vehicle. Funding for a new trencher is also included.
- Funding for the next phase of the Sports Center lighting replacement project, including new light fixtures on fields 2, 3, and 4 (\$150,000).
- Safety net improvements at Sports Center fields, as well as gate and fencing improvements (\$25,000).
- Additional downtown benches, planters, and picnic tables for Towne Square, including removal of the Square fountain (following relocation of the bronze tree and family sculpture to the newly renovated Rec

- Center) and installation of a new type of fountain and other paver improvements and changes to the Square (\$120,000).
- Continuation of the design and engineering efforts for the Golf Course improvement project. See related article in this Newsletter for more details.
- Funding for drainage, bunker, and landscaping improvements, and tree replacement efforts on the Golf Course (\$17,500).
- A new utility vehicle and mower reels for Golf maintenance efforts (\$42,000).

ADMINISTRATIVE & MISCELLANEOUS...

- One additional full-time Account Clerk to assure continuity and succession in the Tax Office.
- Funding for a focused examination of facilities related issues within the existing Police Department (\$10,000).
- Continued funding to retain a qualified lobbyist to assist in cooperative efforts with the City of Cincinnati to secure funding and support for relocation of the airport facilities and the future Performing Arts & Conference Center (PACC).



Architect's rendering of a future PACC, just one concept being considered for the future 130-acre park.

- Expansion of the City's relationship with Cincinnati/CAGIS (Cincinnati Area Geographic Information System) for implementation of a citizen request tracking and response module with the City's newly-redesigned website. This capability would also assist multiple areas of the City in monitoring and administering various issues.
- Funding for a citizen survey (via telephone) to be completed by UC.
- Maintenance of the "rainy day" fund or reserve, equal to 10% of the City's earnings tax collections (\$2,860,000).
- Debt retirement of \$3,750,100. This includes amounts due in 2008 on the Reed Hartman Highway Improvement bond issued in 2005, the Service and Fire House construction bonds issued in 2003, and the Kenwood Road Improvement bonds issued in 2000.

entrance, facing Cooper Road, and a new open and centralized lobby space, including family, cafe, and community lounge areas. This new central area will be located where today's locker rooms are and will be open, light, and accessible to all Center activity (including the pools). The estimated cost of both phases of the Rec Center renovation project is estimated to be \pm \$12 million. (See graphic below.)



Golf Course Improvements...

In late Oct. 2007, an update was presented to Council showing draft floor plans and out-

side renderings of potential future improvements to the Golf Course. Various site layout options were explained, including the potential of relocating two golf holes to the east side of Plainfield Rd. on the future airport park property and the potential of a driving range. A future multi-level and multi-function Clubhouse facility would likely be around 22,000 square feet in area, and would include expanded banquet facilities and golf functions. Planning and design will continue in 2008, with construction anticipated to begin in 2009 or 2010.

Future 130-acre park near the airport...

The City officially closed on the purchase of the 130 acres from the City of Cincinnati of property at the Blue Ash Airport to be developed by Blue Ash as a park. However, don't expect to see any park development activity

happening there soon since the City of Cincinnati will have to relocate and reconfigure the Blue Ash Airport facilities on the remaining 100 acres of the property before Blue Ash can begin any park development. In the meantime, conceptual planning for the park will continue, and Blue Ash will also continue work with Cincinnati towards the goal of relocating their airport facilities on those 100 acres -- essentially to the south and east of the existing runway, towards Carver Road. Cincinnati has three years, plus two one-year optional extensions to relocate and reconfigure the airport facilities.



Pictured L to R are Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory & Blue Ash Mayor Jack Buckman signing documents for Blue Ash's purchase of the 130 acres of future park property.

A VETERANS DAY THANK YOU

Blue Ash's annual Veterans Day ceremonies took place at the Veterans Memorial Park on Sunday morning, November 11th. A special thank you to all who attended and assisted with this year's ceremonies, including ...

- ✓ All the students in the Edwin H. Greene Intermediate School's Accelerated Language Lab classes, including this year's selected readers: John Carroll, Sydney Carroll, Taylor Combs, Alec Leyendecker, Christina Shehata, and Mark Reinhart. You all did a GREAT job!
- ✓ The Greene School Teachers who include this special program in their curriculum each year, including Leslie Burklow, Michelle LaCalameto, and Angela Ryan.
- ✓ Colonel (ret.) Dean Smittle, who was this year's keynote speaker.
- ✓ The Ohio Military Band, who provided special assistance for this year's ceremonies.
- ✓ All the members of the Veterans Day Committee, including Bob Brewster of the Air Force Officer's Association who this year played a major role with ceremony coordination.
- ✓ Osborne Trucking, for their continued generosity in providing a ceremonial platform.

Next year's ceremonies will take place on Tuesday, November 11th.

SCENES FROM 2007 VETERANS DAY...



INSCRIBED VETERANS MEMORIAL BRICKS STILL AVAILABLE...

Inscribed bricks honoring American veterans are still available for purchase ... and they make a great gift too! Bricks are placed at the Veterans Memorial one time each year, by Memorial Day. The deadline for brick orders generally falls in early April.

Brick pavers may be purchased by the public to honor any American who has served or is currently serving in the U.S. Armed Services. Note that Blue Ash residency is not a requirement of those being honored on the brick or those purchasing the bricks. Brick cost remains at \$25 each, a portion of which may be tax deductible. Each 4"x 8" brick has 3 lines of inscription, with 14 characters MAX per line (including spaces, punctuation marks, etc.). The first line consists of the veteran's name, the second the branch of service (Army, Air Force, etc.), and the third the years of service.

Bricks may be purchased in person at the Municipal & Safety Center between 8AM and 5PM weekdays. Mail orders are also accepted. (Sorry ... charge card orders for bricks are no longer accepted.)

Inscribed bricks to honor your special vet also make a great gift! Though we cannot provide the brick as the gift, upon request, we will be happy to make a personalized certificate to be presented as the gift.

Call 745-8539 for an order form and for further info regarding the paver program (or E-mail administration@blueash.com). You can also download an order form from the Veterans Memorial section of the BlueAsh.com website under the Parks & Recreation section. Don't wait another year!!

Vet Memorial Trivia ... as of the end of 2007, over 4,800 inscribed bricks have been placed!

NEWS FROM THE RAYMOND WALTERS COLLEGE CAMPUS...

RWC's cultural events are in full swing! We encourage your family to take advantage of these quality opportunities ... right in your back yard! And remember, too, that these programs are all very reasonably priced, and parking is free. For info or more details on any of these series, call 745-5705, or click on the RWC website at www.rwc.uc.edu.

RHYTHM 'N BLUE ASH - RWC's concert series geared for adults. All concerts are at 8PM in the RWC Theater located in Muntz Hall.

- Saturday, January 26th: The Christian McBride Band (Jazz)
- Saturday, February 23rd: Second City Comedy Troupe

ARTRAGEOUS SATURDAYS - the Tri-State's premier performing arts series for children ages 3-10 (co-sponsored by Blue Ash). Your family will love the fantastic ensemble of plays, music, dancing and more! All performances are at 11AM and (*new time*) 1PM in the RWC Theater.



- Saturday, January 26th: Catskill Puppet Theatre - Hiawatha
 - Saturday, February 23rd: ArtsPower National Touring Theatre - "Fish Face" (note: the February 23rd performer was changed since the printing of the community calendar - the Feb. 23rd performer is not Cincinnati Opera)
 - Saturday, March 29th - Read Like a Rockstar: Thaddeus Rex
- ARTIVITIES** - these hands-on workshops are designed for teams of an adult and a child to offer young creatives, ages 7-12, an opportunity to create art while learning from the experts. Workshops are held from 10AM to noon at the UC Education Center at Blue Ash Elementary on the RWC campus. At the end of each workshop, the child will be able to leave with something he/she has created.
- Saturday, January 12th - Space Painter's Juggling Company
 - Saturday, February 9th - SmartMagic

● Saturday, March 8th - Tim Oliphant's "Cartooning with Mr. Ollie"
FESTIVAL IN THE WOODS - RWC will present this annual artwork display throughout March, featuring artwork from local elementary, middle, and high schools. Artwork may be viewed weekdays between 10AM and 8PM, and weekends between Noon and 6PM. The public is invited to a special pre-view reception on Friday, February 29th, from 4-7PM. Call 745-5685 for info.

RWC DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI nominations are being accepted through January. For info or to download a nomination form, visit www.rwc.uc.edu/alumni/index.html.
 RWC will begin accepting **APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS** in early January ... to find out what scholarships are available, visit www.rwc.uc.edu or call the Enrollment Services center at 745-5700.

BLUE ASH NOTES...

Note that there will be a **one-day delay in waste pickup** on Tuesday through Friday, **Dec. 25th - 28th**, and **Jan. 1st - 4th**. Also remember that all **City offices** will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, **Dec. 24th and 25th**; on Tuesday, **Jan. 1st**; on Monday, **Feb. 18th**; and at Noon on Good Friday, **March 21st**. The **Rec Center** and **Golf Course** will be closed all day on **Christmas** and **New Year's**, and the **Rec Center** is also closed on **Easter Sunday, March 23rd**...

The City's waste contractor, Rumpke, will **pickup** your **cut holiday tree** if you place it out with your **regular waste** on your normal pickup day. Keep in mind the delays noted above. **No waste sticker** is needed, and the **tree** will be **recycled**. Remember too that even though the City's regular **curbside brush pickup** is **not scheduled** from **December through February**, you can **call** the Department at 686-1250 if you have brush set out at the curb ready to be collected. Regular **brush pickup** on a weekday schedule will **resume March 3rd**...

Don't forget that your **award-winning Blue Ash Golf Course** is open **year round**, **weather permitting**. **Winter rates** are very **reasonable**, and remain **in effect** until mid March. The **Sandtrap Sandwich Shop** is **closed** for the **season**, but will **reopen in March**. Call the Pro Shop at 686-1280 with questions....

A limited number of **extra 2008 Blue Ash Community Calendars** are yours for the asking ... just **call 745-8500** weekdays between 8AM and 5PM to reserve your copy which you can pick up at your convenience....



Have you checked out the **newly-redesigned BlueAsh.com website**? The City's new general **website** was launched in **late August**, and offers even **more information** about our community. **Site improvements in 2008** will also be offered for benefit of our residential and corporate citizens ... stay tuned....

Did you know that under **State law** passed in late 2006, **owners of residential RENTAL property** are required to file certain info with the **Auditor**? The required form is available on the **Hamilton County Auditor's website** at www.hamiltoncountyauditor.org (under "Forms," then "Real Property," then "Residential Rental Property Registration.") Forms may also be picked up in the lobby of the Municipal & Safety Center, 4343 Cooper Road. Call the County Auditor's Office at 946-4000 with questions...

At the August 9th Council meeting (see picture to the right), Ron Mosby of the **Wal-Mart**

Corporation presented the City with a **\$10,000** check, representing the first time Wal-Mart has participated as a Taste of Blue Ash sponsor. A resounding "thanks" to Wal-Mart, and all of our generous sponsors -- we could not possibly offer national-level entertainment without your support!! **Many thanks** also to these other 2007 event sponsors: **Academy Rentals, Cincinnati Concession/Catering, Coca Cola, Community Press, Donatos, DoubleTree Guest Suites, Dr. Eric Omella, Fifth Third Bank, Hills Communities, Horan Assoc., Land Rover, Larry's Lock, Safe/Security, LSI Ind., Louis Truth Dairy, Miller Brewing, Ohio Lottery, Parker's Blue Ash Grill, Phillips Supply, Renewal By Andersen, RiverCity Remodeling, Rozzi's Fireworks, Romano's Macaroni Grill, Rumpke, Samurai Sam's, SmarTravel, Time Warner Cable, Toyota, WCPO Channel 9, 700WLW, WUBE 105.1, and WYGY 97.3.**



Pictured above at the Aug. 9th Council meeting., L to R: Special Events Coordinator Barb Griffin, Mayor Jack Buckman, Ron Mosby of Wal-Mart, & City Manager David Waltz. Wal-Mart presented a \$10,000 check to Blue Ash for Taste sponsorship.

BLUE ASH ROADWORK UPDATE ...



BLUE ASH/HUNT ROAD

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - This project will affect all of Blue Ash Road and a portion of Hunt Road, ranging from West Avenue

east to the railroad tracks. At the writing of this newsletter, the project is out to bid, with bid awards expected by City Council in December. Work should begin in February 2008, following the completion of the Greater Cincinnati Water Works' (GCWW) installation of its new transmission main in this area. Improvements planned in this area include a new storm sewer system, new roadway, curbs and gutters, possibly an expanded park and ride area, and sidewalk. Traffic will be maintained, but inconvenience can be expected during the construction period. Estimated completion for this project is the end of 2008. This project is being

financed partially through a no-interest loan granted to the City through the State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP).

PLAINFIELD/REED HARTMAN CORRIDOR

City Engineers have been looking closely at the Plainfield Road corridor, ranging from the City's southern corporate limit and north to the Glendale-Milford/Reed Hartman intersection. Some improvements for the Plainfield/Hunt intersection were incorporated within the 2007 Street Program, including lane reconfiguration and modifications involving repainting/stripping of the pavement. These improvements have dramatically improved traffic flow through this area. City staff and engineers will continue to review and monitor this area for long-term improvements.

ARCADIA SUBDIVISION - GCWW is planning to replace all the water service main lines

through the entire Arcadia subdivision. (Arcadia is the residential neighborhood on the east side of Kenwood Road, ranging from Myrtle Avenue on the south to Prospect Avenue on the north.) Bidding will take place late this year, with work on the project anticipated to begin sometime in early 2008. The project was delayed from earlier schedules to assure availability of hot mix asphalt for proper restoration of the streets. The line installations, including restoration of the roadways, should be complete by the end of summer 2008.

FLORAL AVENUE AREA - In summer 2008, GCWW is planning to replace all service main lines through the Floral Avenue area, including the side streets. More updates and details, as they become known, will be posted to the City's BlueAsh.com website.



ASPIRE. ACHIEVE. ADVANCE. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS ...

Downtown Update ...

As was reported in the Fall Newsletter, the City spent much of 2007 working towards finalization of a streetscape plan for Downtown Blue Ash. The streetscape plan addresses elements that occur in the public right-of-way, such as public benches, trash cans, paver bricks, street lights and poles, signage, street trees, roadway configuration, etc. In late 2007, Blue Ash City Council is expected to formally approve the **Downtown Blue Ash Streetscape Master Plan**. This plan represents the City's next step in the long-term planning process to promote continued improvement in Downtown Blue Ash. The Master Plan supports the development of a more pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use downtown area -- concepts included within the **Town Center Concept Redevelopment Plan** approved by Council in 2006.

A summary of the goals of the Downtown Streetscape Master Plan is below:

- Create a more vibrant pedestrian-oriented downtown environment unique to Blue Ash.
- Establish on-street pedestrian spaces that support outdoor dining, entertainment, and cultural activities.
- Establish a stronger "sense of place"



through the incorporation of branding and "wayfinding" elements.

- Establish standards appropriate to the character, function, and tenancing of various subdistricts of downtown.
- Establish a standard palette of durable street furnishings and materials in order to ensure a cohesive identity and minimize maintenance and replacement expenses.
- Utilize common design elements from the current streetscape in order to maintain continuity and to minimize costs.
- Support future phased development. The Streetscape plan would not be implemented in its entirety, but as a series of phased projects that would likely coincide with private redevelopment initiatives.

A PDF of the complete plan has been posted to the "news" section of the BlueAsh.com website since late fall, and will remain available for public review indefinitely. Please direct questions regarding the downtown efforts to the Community Development Office at 745-8520.

BlueAshAdvance.Com ...

If you're interested in receiving business-related E-mail news and updates, sign up through the City's economic development website BlueAshAdvance.com. Did you know the City received an economic development award for its BlueAshAdvance.com website? The International Economic Development

Council (IEDC) presented its award to Blue Ash at IEDC's annual conference in Phoenix, Arizona in mid September. If you haven't checked out BlueAshAdvance.com yet, take a few minutes to browse the site to see how your community is promoting its economic development attributes to prospective businesses.

New Business to Blue Ash ...

Omya Industries Inc. has signed a lease for 23,000 square feet of office space at The Landings in Blue Ash. Omya Industries, a manufacturer of calcium carbonate with plants across North America, announced in mid July its plans to move its corporate management functions to Cincinnati USA, including offering 45 Vermont employees transfer opportunities. We are very pleased Omya Industries recently selected The Landings in Blue Ash for its U.S. headquarters, bringing 50 high-paying jobs to our community. The consolidation of Omya Industries' corporate management team from Vermont -- along with other key functions located in Alpharetta, GA, to Cincinnati USA -- will allow the company to provide more effective support for all of its North American facilities. The company, a unit of Switzerland-based Omya AG, employs about 700 at its North American facilities. Welcome to Blue Ash, Omya!

COMMUNITY BULLETINS...

The 2008 concert season for the **BLUE ASH/MONTGOMERY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** (BAMSO) is now set!

Remember that all BAMSO concerts are free and open to the public. For more info



about the Symphony, call Susan Pace at 232-0949, or click on www.bamso.org. Here's the 2008 lineup ...

- Sun., Feb. 10th, Church of the Savior, 8005 Pfeiffer Rd., 6PM (Valentine's Concert)
- Mon., May 26th, Blue Ash Towne Square (Hunt & Cooper Roads), 6PM (Memorial Day Concert). Rain site: Sycamore Junior High, 5757 Cooper Rd.
- Thurs., July 3rd, Montgomery Park (Montgomery & Schoolhouse Roads), 7:30PM (Independence Day Concert). Rain site: Sycamore Junior High.
- Mon., Sept. 1st, Blue Ash Towne Square, 6PM (Labor Day Concert). Rain site: Sycamore Junior High.
- Sun., Dec. 7th, Montgomery Assembly of God Church, 7950 Pfeiffer Rd., 7:30PM (Kindel Memorial Holiday Concert).

Congratulations to Blue Ash resident **MARC SIRKIN** (pictured below) who was selected as the **BLUE ASH/MONTGOMERY ROTARY CLUB'S** Distinguished Citizen of the Year for 2007! This prestigious award is presented by the Club to someone who has made noteworthy contribution to the area, has proven commitment to the area through direct or indirect activities, and is a positive role model in the community. Dr. Sirkin is an accomplished dentist with a practice in Blue Ash; is a pilot and avid supporter of the Blue Ash Airport; and has been a volunteer for several years on Blue Ash citizen boards, including the Board of Tax Review from 2004 to 2006, and the Board of Site Arrangement/Zoning Appeals since September 2006. Marc was presented with his award at the Club's luncheon on October 23rd. *Kudos, Marc!*



Pictured L to R is Marc Sirkin, Rotary's 2007 "Citizen of the Year," & Maxine Richardson from the Rotary.

The **BLUE ASH WOMANS CLUB** will hold its annual spring luncheon (proceeds to benefit the Club's scholarship program) on Saturday, April 5th, at 11AM at the Blue Ash Civic League building at 9306 Towne Square Avenue. Cost of \$25 includes luncheon, favors, door prizes, silent auction, and raffle. The event speaker will be Vicki Wentrup from Benken's Florist & Greenhouses who will demonstrate floral designs. Call Beverly at 891-4043 for tickets or info...

Congratulations to Blue Ash based **MATTHEW 25: MINISTRIES** (M25M) who in 2007 anticipates their best year ever of humanitarian shipments! By the end of the year, M25M will ship an estimated 430 forty-foot sea containers filled with over 9.5 million pounds of products valued at \$80+ million to the poorest of the poor in destinations throughout the U.S. and the world. WOW! M25M's Fighting Hunger 5K race was another huge success, with more than 400 runners participating. M25M is an award-winning international humanitarian and disaster relief organization based on Kenwood Road in Blue Ash. More than 99% of M25M's cash and in-kind donations go toward programs. M25M is one of the many caring organizations in the community who "give back," and is one featured on the April photo page of the 2008 Blue Ash Community Calendar. We're proud to have M25M as a part of the Blue Ash community!

Congratulations to the employees of Blue Ash based **ETHICON ENDO-SURGERY** who donated their time, labor, and financial support to New Orleans Habitat for Humanity. The employees (two teams of 25) were scheduled to be in New Orleans for a conference, and traveled to New Orleans early to lend their support. The Ethicon teams worked on two houses, about one mile apart, in a suburb about 30 minutes south-east of downtown New Orleans - one of the most devastated communities in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

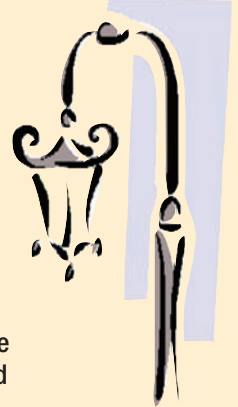
Congratulations to **GARY RAGLE**, son of long-time residents **JIM AND KATHY RAGLE**, for winning Mattel's Designer Challenge! Gary's Mitsubishi Double Shotz 2 was selected as one of six top designs at the SEMA show, and his design will be produced as a Hot Wheels car in 2008.

If you have good news or accomplishments that you would like to share in future Blue Ash Community Newsletters about your Blue Ash area civic organization or company, E-mail info to administration@blueash.com, or call the Public Information Office at (513) 745-8510.

STREET LIGHT REMINDER ... WE NEED YOUR HELP, BLUE ASH!

We can't do it alone, Blue Ash ... we need your help in reporting street lights which are not working properly.

Some street lights in Blue Ash are managed by the City, while most are managed by Duke Energy. Neither Duke nor the City of Blue Ash has the capability to continuously drive around Blue Ash at night to observe whether street lights are operational. We depend on citizens to make us aware of street light outages.



If you are aware of a street light problem, please call the Facilities Maintenance Division at 745-8512. Outages may also be reported to 745-8500 weekdays between 8AM and 5PM, or by E-mailing administration@blueash.com. The City has an inventory location tag attached to all CITY-owned street lights. This ID is a brown 3"x 3" tag with white lettering, including a three-digit identification number. When you call, what will be asked of you is the closest address to the light (or some other meaningful directional information), your name, and your phone number. It would be very helpful if you could also provide the three-digit identification number noted on the tag if possible. Note that tags are only on City-owned lights, not those owned by Duke. We ask for your name and phone number because if the light is one managed by Duke, it is not their practice to inform the City when the light has been fixed. Being able to follow up to assure the problem has been corrected ... or, if possible, a call from the resident telling us that the light has been repaired ... is extremely helpful so that we can gauge response time.

Thank you for your help in reporting street light problems!



HOLIDAY & WINTER SAFETY TIPS FROM THE FIRE & POLICE PROFESSIONALS

FROM THE BLUE ASH POLICE CRIME PREVENTION OFFICE...



'Tis the season for shopping! Many of you may choose to shop on the internet for your holiday gifts and needs. Convenience, good deals, and choices are all positive things the internet offers, but it's important to be CYBER-

SMART! Here are just a few tips to assure your online experience is a safe one ...

✓ **SHOP WITH COMPANIES YOU KNOW!**

Anyone can set up an online shop under almost any name. If you are not familiar with the merchant, ask for a paper catalog to get a better idea of their products and services. Also be sure you are aware of a company's return and refund policies BEFORE making your purchase.

✓ **KEEP YOUR PASSWORD PRIVATE!** NEVER give your password to anyone. Avoid using a birthday or a portion of your Social Security number. If possible, use a combination of letters and numbers.

✓ **USE A SECURE BROWSER.** A browser is the software you use to navigate the internet. Your browser should comply with all industry security standards. These standards encrypt or scramble purchase and credit card info you send over the internet.

✓ **PAY BY CREDIT CARD OR THROUGH REPUTABLE PAY SYSTEM.** Paying by credit card protects your transaction by the Fair Credit Billing Act. Under this law, you have the right to dispute charges under certain circumstances and temporarily withhold payment while the creditor investigates them.

(Remember, debit cards do not have this protection!) If possible and if the merchant allows, consider using a reputable pay system, such as "Paypal." Such a system allows you to share your credit information with one entity (Paypal), who then takes care of paying the participating merchant. This avoids sharing your credit information with multiple sources.

✓ **KEEP PERSONAL INFORMATION PRIVATE.**

Do not give out info such as your Social Security Number, E-mail address, telephone number, or address unless you know who is collecting the info, why they are collecting it, and how they will use it. Your privacy is an important asset.

✓ **SAVE ALL TRANSACTION INFORMATION,** including E-mails and records of phone conversations.

FROM THE FIREHOUSE ...

COOKING & KITCHEN SAFETY ...



- Never leave cooking areas unattended. *Tip:* if you have to leave the room, take a utensil with you to remind you to return soon.
- Wear short or tight-fitting sleeves when you cook and keep handles of your pots and pans turned inward to avoid the item being knocked or pulled over.
- If grease catches fire, carefully slide a lid over the pan to smother the flames, and then turn off the burner.

HOLIDAY DECORATION TIPS...

- Make sure all indoor and outdoor lights bear the label of an independent testing laboratory (Underwriters Laboratory).

- Do not overload outlets or run extension cords under carpets, across doorways, or near heaters. Be sure extension cords are not pinched behind or under furniture. Unplug all decorative lights before leaving your home or going to bed.
- Make sure lit candles are in a non-tip holder, and never burn candles in windows, near exits, or near a holiday tree or combustible decoration or display. Do not leave burning candles unattended or within reach of small children or pets.

GENERAL WINTER SAFETY TIPS...

- Have your chimney inspected by a professional once a year. Always use a fire screen, and burn only material appropriate for your fireplace (seasoned firewood or logs such as "dura-log"). When cleaning a fireplace, always use metal fireplace tools and a metal bucket - never store ashes in your home or garage as they may rekindle and start a fire.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from furniture, bedding, walls, clothing, and flammable liquids. Always use the proper fuel for the liquid fueled heaters, and be sure they are vented properly. Refill them only in a ventilated area when they are cool. Make sure the space heater you purchase has the independent testing laboratory seal, and that your home is equipped with an appropriate number of carbon monoxide (CO) detectors (especially when utilizing such appliances). CO detectors are available for purchase at the North Firehouse ... call 745-8533 with questions.

CITY OF BLUE ASH EMPLOYEE MILESTONES...

There are several full- and year-round part-time City of Blue Ash employees who will be celebrating "special" anniversaries at some time in 2008 ... those celebrating a 35-, 30-, 25-, 20-, 15- or ten-year anniversary in 2008 are listed below ... congrats!



CELEBRATING 35 YEARS IN 2008:

- Stephanie Stoller, Council

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS IN 2008:

- Jeannette Boraten, Finance
- Steve Ford, Fire

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS IN 2008:

- Dennis Boone, Police
- Dan Geers, Police

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN 2008:

- Erskine Page, Police
- Kathy Swensen, Recreation

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS IN 2008:

- Jack Buckman, Council
- Susan Trammel, Recreation
- Dan Edwards, Parks Maintenance
- Courtenay Gamber, Fire
- John Hale, Fire
- Mary Heinbach, Comm. Development
- Randy Richardson, Police Dispatch
- Joe Schoettmer, Golf

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS IN 2008:

- Johnnie M. Bennett, Hazelwood
- Rodney Clark, Parks Maintenance
- Teri Englert, Facilities & Front Desk
- Clyde Eppert, Golf
- Tony Fanning, Tennis
- Shirley Land, Facilities Maintenance
- Tim Lung, Golf Maintenance
- Don Maggard, Golf
- Mark Martin, Service Department
- Sherry Poppe, Tax & Finance
- Jim Shiverski, Facilities Maintenance
- Mike Toon, Fire

SNOW & ICE REMINDERS...

It's that time of year, Blue Ash! Keep in mind that if the City of Blue Ash declares a snow emergency, no vehicle may be parked on any Blue Ash street. The purpose of this law is to make it easier for Blue Ash snow trucks to plow the streets in a safe and efficient manner for the benefit and safety of all Blue Ash citizens and motorists.

As has been the policy for years, Blue Ash's major streets and intersections will be cleared of snow first. Second priority is given to residential and other side streets with steep grades, such as Lobelia Drive, Bluewing Terrace, Chimney Hill Drive, etc. Residential and other side streets are cleared on a systematic basis, with most heavily traveled roads cleared and treated first.

Residents can make a huge difference to make snow removal efforts easier and more efficient for our crews ... here are just a few suggestions of how you can help:

- * Even if a snow emergency is not declared, please do not park vehicles on the street. This allows trucks to clear the entire street, and at the same time, not block access to your vehicle.
- * The snowplow driver cannot control the snow coming off the edge of the plow's blade. 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 worked so hard to clear.

- * 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. If roads are snow covered or slick, you cannot expect to drive as you would when the roads are dry or the weather is clear.
- * Do not pass a snowplow truck. Each truck has blind spots reducing side and rear visibility. Remember ... 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.

"REVERSE 9-1-1" EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS REMINDER

In May 2006, Blue Ash implemented an emergency telephone notification service through a contracted company called CodeRed. The system, sometimes referred to as "reverse 9-1-1," is designed to telephone residences and businesses with a recorded message, alerting them to matters of public safety such as crime alerts, missing persons, evacuation, shelter-in-place, etc.

Although initial data of residential addresses and telephone numbers was downloaded into the system by CodeRed, residents and businesses are encouraged to link to CodeRed where they can individually enter their information, which is kept strictly confidential. The opportunity to enter multiple

telephone numbers is also possible (such as cell numbers, etc.).

While an initial download of residential phone numbers was made, it's important to note to our business community that a download of business phone numbers was not available. It's important for businesses to enter their phone info to be included within this notification service (see link info below).

Please also note that it is NOT the intent to use this system to notify in the case of severe weather. Given the unpredictability and sudden nature of severe weather, residents will need to continue to rely on the Hamilton County sirens for immediate notification.

If a resident chooses not to be included in the database to receive these public safety messages, number(s) may be removed from the database by downloading, completing, and returning the Request for Removal From Database Form (see link info below). Sorry ... no return faxes or E-mails of this form are accepted since original signatures are required.

Check out the "Emergency Communications Network" portion of the Police website ... from BlueAsh.com, click "Municipal Services," then "Police," then to "Police Services." Or call the Police Dispatch desk at 745-8555 with questions regarding Blue Ash's emergency notification system.



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