



WINTER 2008/2009

2009 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS...

Below is a summary of the major efforts planned by your City government in 2009. Note that given these challenging economic times, some of the larger expenses noted below may be delayed until at least mid year to assure sufficient revenues. The 2009 Budget continues the City's conservative projections and assures maintenance of reserves and contingencies. Please note that not all City efforts are listed and that dollar figures are estimated:

PUBLIC SAFETY -- Police & Fire ...

- Funding to replace self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) equipment for the Fire Department (\$175,000).
- Funding to replace and equip five police vehicles.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Continued funding for economic development incentives, intended for use with large desirable business prospects (\$575,000).
- 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 design efforts related to future (likely 2010) Downtown streetscaping improvements, traffic signals and poles, signs/wayfinding, street lights, etc. A grant has been secured which will provide one-third of the funding for replacement of the traffic signals in the downtown area.

(Budget Highlights continued on Page 2.)

SNOW & ICE CONTROL UPDATE

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. A snow emergency will be posted to the City's website, as well as communicated to the area's major television and radio media.

Snow/Ice control plan of action ...

You may have heard in recent media reports that our area of the country is experiencing a shortage of road salt. Though Blue Ash has a decent supply of salt already stored for use this upcoming season, the City will also be utilizing a newer product for ice and snow control on our public roadways - one that is more environmentally friendly. The product is Geo-Melt S, and it is derived from sugar beets. This liquid product, used in conjunction with road salt, is more environmentally friendly and is less corrosive than the liquid calcium chloride product used in prior years. The purpose of Geo-Melt is to prevent the snow and/or ice from bonding to the pavement, thereby requiring less salt usage once the snow starts to fall. Blue Ash will use this product primarily as a pre-treatment, and it will be applied to the streets 12 to 24 hours prior to an expected snowfall. Though the product is more costly than the traditional

(Snow control article continued on Page 2.)

BLUE ASH FIRE INSURANCE RATING UPGRADE!

The City of Blue Ash was notified in October that its community-wide fire insurance rating increased dramatically from a previous Class 4 rating to Class 2!

This is great news for Blue Ash residents because insurance companies use this Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating to help establish fair premiums for homeowners and commercial fire insurance. Overall, the cost of fire insurance in a community with a good PPC is substantially lower than in a community with a poor PPC. If you haven't already done so, the City encourages property owners to contact insurance agents to discuss potential cost

savings as a result of this positive change for Blue Ash.

This improved rating was the result of a recent evaluation of Blue Ash by Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO), which collects and evaluates information from communities across the country on their structure fire suppression capabilities. ISO is an independent company that serves insurance companies, communities, fire departments, insurance regulators, and others by providing information about risk. In communities, ISO visits the Fire Department, analyzes relevant data and assigns a PPC - a number ranging from

(Fire insurance article continued on Page 5.)

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PUBLIC WORKS

- Completion of the Blue Ash/Hunt Road improvements project. Work in 2009 will include the Hunt Road portion of this project since the Blue Ash Road portion was complete in late 2008. The Hunt Road portion of this project was delayed until 2009 so that the City's project on Hunt Road could be coordinated with new water mains being installed on Hunt from West Avenue to Plainfield.
- Continued funding for the annual paving program (\$1,000,000+), including micro-surfacing of streets in Hazelwood utilizing Community Development Grant funds.
- Continued annual upgrades to the City's traffic signals with LED lights. LED technology provides the benefit of reduced energy use and greater capacity for powering the signal with battery backup in the event of an outage. (See the "Green" article elsewhere in this newsletter for more information about other energy-saving initiatives by your City.)
- Start of engineering for Plainfield Road bikepath improvements associated with a grant request – construction expected 2011/2012.
- Continued funding to enhance connectivity, including sidewalk/bikepath repair and construction, etc. (\$600,000).
- Funding to purchase a new street sweeper (\$200,000).
- Funding for engineering required for the future addition of a southbound lane on

Plainfield Road between Georgetown and Peppermill.

- Continued funding for City-paid waste collection and recycling services for residents. March 1, 2009 begins the fourth year in the current contract with Rumpke.

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

- Continued efforts toward energy savings planning for City facilities, such as more efficient lighting, new transformers on larger motors, and soft-start motors on Municipal & Safety Center pumps.
- Funding for minor updates to the main administrative hallway and minor remodeling within the Police Department.

PARKS & RECREATION

- Completion of the Phase II Recreation Center renovation and expansion, including a grand opening ceremony in July.
- Continuation of year-round rec programming, such as the Tuesday and Friday summer concert series, and the year-round classes, programs, and leagues offered.
- Continuation of the current level of major special events, including SummerBration in early June; Red, White & Blue Ash on July 4th; Taste of Blue Ash in late August; and Heritage Day in October.



The popular Tuesday & Friday evening concert series will continue in 2009. The Tuesday series will move back to the Amphitheatre Park.

- Continued financial support for the Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Orchestra. See the "Community Bulletins" article for 2009 concert dates.
- Though construction on the new golf clubhouse will not begin before 2010, funding has been included in 2009 for Phase I of improvements to the Course's irrigation system and golf cart paths (\$650,000).
- Continued planning towards the future golf clubhouse concept, including a marketing analysis.
- Continued funding 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).

ADMINISTRATIVE & MISCELLANEOUS

- Funding for an expanded residential tree program.
- No new bonds or notes are expected to be issued in 2009.
- Continued maintenance of the "rainy day" fund or reserve (\$3,000,000).
- Final payment on the Kenwood Road improvement bond (project completed in 1999/2000)
- Continued annual payment of \$1 million to the City of Cincinnati relating to purchase of 130 acres near the airport for future park development.
- There will be no full-time staff additions in any department; however, some vacancies created by recent retirements may be filled.

SNOW & ICE CONTROL UPDATE (continued from Page 1)

control methods used, the City has used it sparingly over the past couple years with favorable results. The City expects to use it even more frequently during this upcoming snow season based upon those results and its positive impact upon the environment.



Snow/ice control procedures...

As has been the strategy 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 snow removal easier and more efficient for our crews ... here are just a few suggestions of how you can help when it snows:

*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. 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 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.

BLUE ASH ... OR "GREEN" ASH?!

Did you know that your City works hard in efforts to "go green"? We thought our citizens might be interested in reading more about what Blue Ash is doing in terms of becoming more environmentally conscious in its decisions. Here are just a few highlights of City efforts to go green ...

- Did you know that business energy costs are seven times more expensive during "peak" hours vs. "off peak" hours? The Rec Center has an ice storage system, and chillers make ice during off-peak hours. That system then uses the ice to cool the building in warm months instead of relying on peak power during the day.
- For the past several years, when traffic lights have been in need of replacement, LED lights have been used in lieu of incandescents. About 25% of the City's traffic signals utilize LED technology, which is not only more energy efficient, but also saves on maintenance costs. More signals are converted to LED each year.
- The Golf Course uses variable frequency drive (VFD) or variable speed drive (VSD) pumps in conjunction with the irrigation system. This uses much less energy to start the pumps and also minimizes potential damage to pipes sometimes caused by extreme pressure when an old-style pump is first turned on.
- Newer City facilities have recirculating hot water systems that allow immediate flow of hot water. Less water use is the result.
- Most shower heads throughout the City are water-saver models. Replacement bathroom and toilet fixtures are the more efficient water-saver and low-flow design products.
- The Service Department provides pickup of Freon-containing appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners from residents at no cost. The City also arranges for proper disposal of the Freon removed from those appliances.
- Residents are able to dispose of, at no cost, certain hazardous waste items (such as batteries, oil, tires, etc.) at the Service Department which arranges for proper disposal.
- In addition to the free curbside recycling bin program, there are several recycling drop-off locations throughout the City available for use by the public 24-hours a day. These drop-off bins are located in the Nature Park parking area, Sports Center, Raymond Walters College, and in downtown behind the library. The same recyclables that can be placed in curbside bins can be recycled at these drop-off locations.
- Parks and Golf Maintenance operations compost -- three compost areas at the Sports Center and one near the Golf Maintenance facility. The compost is tilled back into flower beds and other appropriate areas in Blue Ash.
- The Service Department offers free delivery of wood chips to Blue Ash residents when available. These chips are the product of the department's brush chipper which canvasses the City through spring, summer, and fall months.
- The Golf Maintenance facility has a recovery wash pad. This assures that oils and other matter washed from mowing machines are not dispensed back into the environment. The grass trimmings gathered through this process are reused and spread on the course.
- Golf and Parks Maintenance crews mulch leaves when possible. Mulching, in lieu of bagging, returns needed nutrients to the ground, is more efficient, and saves landfill space.
- The Golf Course has approximately five acres of "rough" areas being left to grow naturally, and they are mowed only two times a year.
- The holiday decorations placed in downtown utilize more efficient LED lights, saving in energy costs and long-term maintenance.
- The internal chambers of the recirculation pumps at the pool are specially coated to

increase the flow rate of the water passing through them. This makes the pumping operation more efficient and lessens the pump's energy consumption. This coating also saves on long-term maintenance of the equipment.

- When a "flat" or membrane roof of a City facility is in need of replacement, the City has been utilizing a white roof, vs. traditional black roof. A white roof will absorb less heat and will make the AC system more efficient.
- The City uses digital energy management systems and set-back thermostats on most facilities.
- T12 fluorescent light bulbs have been replaced with recyclable T8 to increase efficiency. Also, fluorescent (vs. incandescent) bulbs are used when possible as they use $\pm 75\%$ less energy than the equivalent voltage incandescent bulb.
- Replacement cooling systems using "ozone friendly" refrigerants are used instead of older R-22 technology.
- Timers and motion sensors on City-owned out buildings are used to conserve on lighting.
- The chemicals used to clean City facilities are cold-water activated. This saves on the cost to heat hot water for cleaning purposes.
- Throughout City offices, the staff is encouraged to recycle, including paper, cans, and plastics.
- For snow and ice control, the City is increasing its usage of a more environmentally friendly additive - Geo-Melt. Read the "Snow & Ice Control" article in this newsletter for info.
- All scoreboard lighting at the Sports Center has been converted to more efficient LED lights.
- Most of the 150+ computers at the City switched to flat screens which use less energy. Also, all printers and copiers have the energy "standby" settings.
- Carpet removed from City facilities is recycled and whenever possible, replacement is made of recycled materials.

GREEN LANDSCAPING WORKSHOPS...

The City of Blue Ash, the City of Montgomery, and Amberley Village are co-sponsoring workshops in 2009 that offer tips on friendly landscaping practices. These "green landscaping" workshops are free to the public and offer suggestions for methods of designing and maintaining beautiful yards, gardens, and landscapes that are healthier not only for your yard, but for you and your family as well.

There are five mini-series presentations planned and one day-long workshop. There is no cost for the five mini-series presentations; however, there is a \$25 registration fee for the workshop.

The five presentations are on Thursday evenings beginning March 5 through April 2, 2009, from 6:30 - 8PM, at Terwilliger Lodge in Dulle

Park in Montgomery. Topics include:

- March 5: Rain Gardens & Contour Planting
- March 12: Soil Testing and Sustainable Plants for the Landscape
- March 19: Rain barrels and Water Harvesting
- March 26: Composting and Mulching
- April 2: Lawn Care & Integrated Pest Management.
- Sat., April 4: Rain Garden Design Training one-day workshop, 8:30AM to 3PM. (Fee: \$25)

Call Mandi Brock in the Blue Ash Park Maintenance office at 686-1270 for more info!

TRASH TALK ...

Recycling Award...

Congratulations! Residents of Blue Ash have been recognized as the "Best Recycler - Community Recycling" for 2007 by the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District. Blue Ash residents recycled 23.43% of their garbage, and Blue Ash won this award for the category of communities with over 10,000 residents. Blue Ash citizens recycle because it's the right thing to do. You diverted over 1,390 tons of garbage from the landfill -- waste that can be remanufactured into new, useful products.

However, we cannot rest on our past success. By 2010, our goal is to recycle 25% or more of our waste stream. Success is up to your continued outstanding support of our recycling program. Remember that participation in the curbside recycling program is at NO COST to residents. If you don't already have a bin, call the Public Works Director's Office weekdays at 745-8538 to order one. Congratulations again, and a sincere thanks from your City staff!

Recycling Reminders...

Below are a few reminders as to what can be placed out for recycling. For more details, click on the public works portion of BlueAsh.com:

- ✓ **PAPER** - White paper; envelopes; mail (including brochures, advertisements, and magazines); computer paper; correspondence; folders (any color); brown papers (including envelopes, grocery bags, cereal boxes, beverage cartons, and even clean pizza boxes without grease stains); and cardboard boxes broken down to 3' x 3' sections.
- ✓ **PLASTIC** - Plastic bottles marked with a number 1 (PETE - soda, water, shampoo and other small mouth bottles); Plastic bottles marked with a number 2 (HDPE - milk, detergent and other small mouth bottles). Please rinse the bottles and discard the lids.
- ✓ **BEVERAGE & FOOD CANS** - Aluminum cans and steel cans, including aerosol and soup cans. Please rinse and remove labels.
- ✓ **GLASS** - Glass bottles and jars of any color. Please rinse and discard lids.

September 14 Wind Storm Brush Cleanup...

Who would have thought a hurricane would hit Blue Ash? Well it happened on September 14, and the result was power loss and property damage through most of the City, hundreds of downed trees, and thousands of broken limbs. Thanks to everyone for getting their brush to the right-of-way and for being patient as City crews worked diligently to service every street throughout the City. City crews worked for three weeks picking up brush

from the storm and collected 11,200 cubic yards of brush which were stockpiled at two locations. The Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District will assist the City with grinding and disposing of this huge amount of brush.

Although weekly curbside brush pickup by City crews ended for the year at the end of October, remember that residents can place brush out with their weekly trash pickup at any time, and Rumpke will pick it up. Brush must be no longer than six feet in length and should be tied in bundles or containerized. Residents are encouraged to use the Rumpke service throughout the year for small quantities of brush. For collection of large amounts of brush during November through February, call the Service Department at (513) 686-1250 to schedule an individual curbside pickup.



Storm damage from hurricane-like winds on September 14 caused much havoc throughout Blue Ash.

Curbside Leaf Pickup...

From mid-October through mid-December, the City picks up leaves along City streets, with no bagging required. Though this newsletter will reach residents after the curbside pickup period has ended, here is a reminder that Rumpke will collect leaves and other yard waste that is bagged or placed in containers on your regularly scheduled waste collection day. Also, your community calendar has noted one day in the spring (Monday, April 13) as an "extra" curbside leaf pickup day to take care of those late-falling leaves. Remember too, however, that you may want to consider mulching as it is better for lawns since it returns nutrients to your lawn, reduces items in the landfill, and reduces costs for the City.

WHAT'S UP WITH THE STORM DRAIN LABELS?

You might have noticed that this fall, volunteers have been busy placing special labels on storm drainage catch basins, etc., within many Blue Ash neighborhoods to help spread the word regarding the importance of protecting local watersheds that run through our community. The prevention message: "No Dumping," since polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.

Anything that enters a storm drain system is discharged untreated into local waterways that we use for drinking water, swimming, and fishing.

Over a half million people, from over 30 jurisdictions, live within the drainage basin of the Mill

Creek, a large stream in southwest Ohio that flows 26 miles through Liberty Township and central Hamilton County.

Many thanks to the Rotary Club of Blue Ash/Montgomery for coordinating the volunteers and participating in all three storm drain labeling events which included volunteers from the Rotary Club, from Blue Ash based Sunny Delight Beverage Co.'s North American headquarters, and from Sycamore High School's Interact Club.

The fall project resulted in the labeling of a total of 323 storm drains, and the delivery of prevention information to over 930 homes.

The storm drain labeling effort is coordinated by the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (HCSWC) to help prevent pollution from entering storm drains. For more information or to get involved with spreading the message of pollution prevention, contact the Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District at 513-772-SOIL (7645).



ASPIRE. ACHIEVE. ADVANCE.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS ...

Economic development efforts continue to be a priority for the City, especially during these trying economic times. Below are some recent highlights of such efforts...

Life Sciences Initiative ...

Did you know that Blue Ash is home to a number of cutting-edge life sciences firms? P&G is our largest employer with about 1,660 on staff, followed closely by Ethicon Endo-Surgery Inc., employing \pm 1,500. These flagship companies are supported by many businesses that touch the full spectrum of life sciences -- from research, to business development, to education. Examples of some other Blue Ash businesses that make the life sciences environment highly dynamic include Camargo Pharmaceutical, Cincinnati Eye Institute, CTI Clinical Trial & Consulting Services, Schulman Associates IRB, Inc. and others.

Efforts throughout 2008 in the economic development arena have focused on establishing the Blue Ash Life Sciences Collaborative.

The goal of the Collaborative is to harness our community's life sciences expertise, grow the life sciences sector, and promote a healthy regional economy. The Collaborative's inaugural event, "Strategies for Attracting and Retaining

Talent," was held on Nov. 13. This event (pictured above), produced by several local and regional organizations committed to growing the life science industry and related workforce needs, attracted professionals to Blue Ash for a morning of quality networking and informative presentations from business, government, and education professionals. The Collaborative will be hosting events throughout



2009 to further networking and education for Life Sciences. More details of this effort can be found at BlueAshAdvance.com/LifeScience.

Target Retail Update...

Target has applied for potential construction of a retail store in Blue Ash west of Plainfield Road and south of Ronald Reagan Highway. The second and final reading of the related ordinances, along with formal Council vote, is scheduled for the December 11 Council meeting. The project and application includes two facets: a rezoning of \pm six acres of residential property to C-2 Planned Commercial, and approval of the development plan. The entire site is about 12 acres and currently has a small office park and ten homes on a private drive. The proposed new store is \pm 140,000 square feet, and will not include a full grocery component. The developer would be required to make significant traffic improvements to the area, including additional signalization, lanes, median areas, and other improvements designed to improve traffic flow and safety in the area. Target officials state that the store planned for Blue Ash will look different from other Target stores as it was designed specifically for Blue Ash. For example, there are more windows in the front to improve appearance, and enhancements to lighting and landscaping are also planned. Should the project get approved on December 11, and progress continues as planned, Target officials indicate that construction would begin in summer 2009, with the store to be open during summer 2010.



2008 Business Accomplishments...

Blue Ash is fortunate to be home for many award-winning and innovative businesses -- both large and small. The *Cincinnati Business Courier* Fast 55 Award is a prestigious award which recognizes the fastest-growing privately-held companies in the 15 county Tri-State region. Congrats to the following Blue Ash companies who were 2008 finalists: **Abstract Display, Sant Corporation, BioRx, EA Hunter, and ISqFt.**

Also, two of the three regional companies on the list of 500 fastest growing companies in the *United States* were from Blue Ash: **Triplefin and EA Hunter!** Congratulations on your success, and thank you for choosing Blue Ash as your corporate home!

Congrats to **Blue Ash's Toyota Motor Sales** who received the State of Ohio's prestigious Annual Governor's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Pollution Prevention. This award recognizes companies and organizations which have made outstanding achievements in reducing pollution through source reduction or the recycling of waste, ultimately helping to protect Ohio's environment and public health. Toyota was one of only nine companies in Ohio to receive the award. Thanks, Toyota, for caring about our community and environment!

Recent Recruitment Success...

Epsilon, a marketing firm that provides comprehensive on- and off-line marketing services to some of the most recognized brands in the world, will be relocating to Blue Ash in early 2009. Epsilon currently has 140 employees, but plans to grow to 175 in their new Blue Ash location on Lake Forest Drive. Welcome to Blue Ash, Epsilon!

FIRE INSURANCE IMPROVEMENT (continued from Page 1)

1 to 10. A community's PPC depends on three elements: fire alarm and communication systems, the fire department, and the local water supply system. Class 1 represents an exemplary fire suppression program, and Class 10 indicates that the area's program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria. Blue Ash's rating is Class 2, representing a significant improvement from its previous Class 4 rating.

Major reasons contributing to Blue Ash's improved grade relate to the opening of its newest and second fire station on Kenwood Road within past recent years, as well as the automatic response agreements

Blue Ash has with several surrounding fire departments, including Sharonville and Montgomery. These mutual aid agreements assure an appropriate level of personnel available to respond to a fire. Working cooperatively with neighboring departments greatly enhances the fire protection in our region.

A Class 2 or better fire rating has been achieved by only 610 rated communities nationwide and 24 rated communities in Ohio, making the Blue Ash Fire Department among the top 1.3% across the nation and among the top 1% in Ohio.

BLUE ASH NOTES...

Note that there will be a **one-day delay** in waste pickup the **weeks of Christmas and New Year's**. There will be **no pickup** on these holidays (Thurs., Dec. 25 and Jan. 1), and pickup will be delayed one day the remainder of those weeks. Also remember that all **City offices** will be **closed** on Wednesday and Thursday, **Dec. 24 and 25**; on Thursday, **Jan. 1**; on Monday, Feb. 16 (**Presidents' Day**); and at Noon on **Good Friday**, April 10. The **Recreation Center and Golf Course** will be closed **all day** on **Christmas and New Year's**, and the **Recreation Center** is also closed on Easter Sunday, April 12...

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**...

In April 2008, the **Blue Ash Police Department** was proud to join the **Hamilton County Police Association (HCPA) Ceremonial Honor Guard**.

Blue Ash Police **Sergeant R. Joseph Boyatt**, who has been a police officer for over 20 years and with the Blue Ash Police Department since 1989, volunteered for this assignment. The HCPA membership includes all local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in Hamilton County, and its Honor Guard performs **ceremonial functions** throughout the County,



Pictured front left is Blue Ash Police Sergeant Joe Boyatt serving on the HCPA Ceremonial Honor Guard.

such as **police officer funerals**, etc. Team members are required to train one day per month in order to maintain their superior delivery of service to County citizens. **Congratulations, Sergeant Boyatt!**

A **part-time employment Parks & Recreation job fair** is set for Sat., Feb. 7, at the **Golf Course Clubhouse** (4040 Cooper Road) from 11AM to 1PM. Persons interested in **exploring the possibility of part-time employment** with any of the divisions of our Parks & Recreation Department are encouraged to attend to learn more – this includes **Grounds and Parks Maintenance, landscaping, aquatics, concessions, camp, tennis, youth programs, Recreation customer service, and golf**. Call the Recreation Center at 745-8550 with questions....

On October 25, **Blue Ash lost a long-time friend and leader** with the **passing of former Councilman Raymond L. MacNab**. Mr. MacNab served on **Council for over 32 years**, from June 1972 to September 2004, and was Blue Ash's Mayor from December 1973 to November 1977 and again from December 1995 to December 1997. The City sends its **sincerest sympathies** to Ray's wife **Carole** and his **family**. Ray will be **missed** by his **many friends** on Council and at Blue Ash City Hall....

The **City and Police Department** are also very sad to report that Mr. **Randy Richardson**, a full-time Blue Ash Police **Dispatcher** who has worked with Blue Ash since December 1993, **passed away suddenly** on October 31 from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident in Independence, Kentucky. The City sends its **sincerest sympathies** to **Randy's family** ...

Don't forget that your **award-winning Blue Ash Golf Course** is open year round, weather permitting. **Winter golf rates** are **very reasonable**, and remain in effect until mid March. Remember too that **cross country skiing** is permitted on the course as long as there are **at least four inches of snow**. There is no defined course, and you ski at your own risk. Ice skating is NOT permitted. 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 2009 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....

Blue Ash now **owns** multiple **internet "addresses"** for its general City website! In addition to the **www.BlueAsh.com** address that the City has owned since 1998, the following additional internet addresses will point you to our general informational site as well: **www.BlueAsh.org** and **www.blueash-OH.gov**. Remember too, that **the City's website will always be the most accurate source of news related to your community**....

Did you know that **State law** passed in late 2006 requires **owners of residential RENTAL property** to file certain info with the County 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...

Congratulations to **Greg Preece** who, after completing a competitive process, was **promoted** from **Fire Captain to Assistant Fire Chief** in mid December 2008. Greg joined the department in April 2001 as a Firefighter/Paramedic, and was promoted to Lieutenant in January 2004 and to Captain in September 2005. One of Greg's major accomplishments with the department is revamping a Life Safety Division (overseeing inspections, plan reviews, building construction, investigations), and increasing inspections to reach 100% compliance throughout our City. Congratulations, Greg, and best of luck to you in your new position

Congratulations to two long-time Service Department employees who recently retired – **Bill Stabler** and **Steve Gillespie**. **Bill** retired at the end of October with over 29 years of service to the City. **Steve** retired at the end of November with over 27 years of service to the City. **Congratulations to both Bill and Steve**, and best of luck to both for many happy and healthy years in their retirement!

A special **thank you** to all who attended and assisted with this year's **Veterans Day** ceremonies, including the **students** in the Greene Intermediate School's ALL classes, comprised of this year's selected readers: **Kate Ammerman, Clara Chuey, Samantha Cirillo, Atyia Dosani, Evelyn Garrett, Bailey McCarthy, Rose Menyher, Megan Schroeder, and Gian Carlo Valli**; the Greene School teachers who include this special program in their curriculum each year, including **Leslie Burklow, Angela Ryan, Donna Anastasi, and Susan Canton**; the **Ohio Military Band**; the members of the Vet Day Committee; and Osborne Trucking, for their continued generosity in providing a ceremonial platform. The City and Veterans Day Committee would like to express its deepest sympathies to the **family of Mr. John W. Erby, Jr.** Mr. Erby was a prominent area life-long veteran advocate who was scheduled to be the keynote speaker at the ceremonies. Sadly, Mr. Erby passed away suddenly on November 9. Next year's ceremonies will take place on Wednesday, November 11.

COMMUNITY BULLETINS

The **BLUE ASH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION** (BABA) sponsors two scholarship programs – one for a college/technical school student and another for a non-traditional student. Since the program's start in 1992, the Association has awarded scholarships to deserving Blue Ash residents, employees of BABA members, and dependent children of owners and employees of members. For the 2009-10 academic year, the following will be awarded: one \$2,000 College/Technical School scholarship, which may be renewed for up to three years, to a deserving graduating high school senior, and one \$500 non-traditional student scholarship to a deserving person desiring to return to higher education. For more info, visit the BABA website at www.babusiness.org. Applications are due by the end of February.

The annual spring scholarship luncheon hosted by the **BLUE ASH WOMANS CLUB** is set for Sat., April 4, 2009, from 11AM to 2PM at the Blue Ash Presbyterian Church. Call Beverly at 891-4043 for more info about this event or the Woman's Club.

The **BLUE ASH/MONTGOMERY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** (BAMSO) has announced their 2009 concert season which is summarized below and also noted within your 2009 Blue Ash Community Calendar:

- Sun., Feb. 22 – Valentine's Concert @ St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

- Mon., May 25 – Memorial Day Concert @ Blue Ash Towne Square
- Fri., July 3 – Independence Day Concert @ Montgomery Park
- Mon., Sept. 7 – Labor Day Concert @ Blue Ash Towne Square
- Sun., Dec. 6 – Kindel Memorial Holiday Concert @ Montgomery Assembly of God Church

Check out the www.bamso.org website for more info.

Many thanks to **MATTHEW 25: MINISTRIES** (M25M) for their assistance during the wind-storm and power outage in September. Teaming up with 700WLW, in just over two days, M25M and WLW Radio distributed nine pallets of bottled water and 7,000 bags (49,000 lbs) of ice. And congrats also to M25M for another successful Fighting Hunger 5K Race, with 400+ runners participating, and a successful "Clothe the Kids" event, along with corporate donor Cintas, which delivered warm coats, hats, and gloves to needy children. Anyone interested in volunteering or assisting with the many charitable efforts put forth by M25M on a daily basis is encouraged to call M25M at 793-6256.

Upcoming events at **RAYMOND WALTERS COLLEGE (RWC)** are summarized here. For more info regarding any event, check out www.rwc.uc.edu ...

ARTrageous Saturday performances are at 11AM & 1PM in the RWC Theatre:

- Sat., Jan. 24, 2009 - "Raising the Barre" – Cincinnati Ballet
- Sat., Feb. 28, 2009 – "Peter & the Wolf" – Das Puppenspiel
- Sat., Mar. 28, 2009 – "Town Mouse, Country Mouse" – ArtReach Children's Theatre

Rhythm 'N Blue Ash concerts are at 8PM in the RWC Theatre:

- Sat., Jan. 24, 2009 – The Kim Pensyl Group, Jazz recording artist
- Sat., Feb. 14, 2009 – Harry Pickens, Piano trio

Congratulations to the **URSULINE LIONS** Volleyball Team for their Division I State runner up title. The Lions were undefeated this season, right up until the State final. Hundreds of parents, students, and faculty members traveled to Wright State's Nutter Center on Sat., Nov. 8, to cheer on the Lions.

A high-five is also due to the **SYCAMORE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS WATER POLO** team who made it to the State finals. They lost a very close game in the finals to Upper Arlington to get second place in State. Congrats also to Sycamore's **BOYS GOLF TEAM** and **BOYS SOCCER TEAM**, both GMC Champions!



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 2009. Those celebrating a 35-, 30-, 25-, 20-, 15- or ten-year anniversary in 2009 include:

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS IN 2009:

- Rick Burdick, Police

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS IN 2009:

- Sue Bennett, City Manager's Office
- Bruce Jones, Service Dept.
- Bill Mayer, Golf Course
- Melissa Webb, Tax
- Dan Weber, Project Management

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS IN 2009:

- Judy Bacher, Mayor's Court
- Ed Jansing, Fire
- Mark Meyer, Golf Maint.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN 2009:

- Joe Boyatt, Police
- Rick Brown, Fire
- Butch Campbell, Park Maint.
- Betsy Ellison, Tax
- Lou Ernstes, Fire
- Bill Hargis, Facilities Maint.
- Paul Hartinger, Police
- Steve Ludmann, Fire
- Rich Riley, Police

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS IN 2009:

- Gary Coffman, Service Dept.
- Jon Corum, Recreation
- Nancy Fowler, Recreation
- Jim Noel, Service
- Joe Schlie, Police
- Gayla Showalter, Fire
- Laura Steely, Recreation
- Pat Van Horn, Facilities Maint.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS IN 2009:

- Keith Cooper, Service Dept.
- Dan Guthrie, Recreation
- Richard Hammerly, Golf Maint.
- Weldon Haynes, Service Dept.
- Al Kuhr, Golf Course
- Kevin Murphy, Fire
- Ryan Noland, Service Dept.
- Robert Rockel, Police
- Bruce Rogers, Golf Maint.
- Steve Schueler, Police
- Joan Wells, Recreation
- Karen Whitlock, Recreation
- Joey Wolf, Recreation
- Carol Wolkoff, Recreation



UNITS FROM BLUE ASH'S OHIO ANG STATION DEPLOYED

In October, the City learned that approximately 75 people based at the Blue Ash Ohio Air National Guard (ANG) station from the 123rd Air Control Squadron (ACS) have been deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom beginning in December 2009. Commander of the 123 ACS, Gene W. Hughes, Jr., reports that members are expected to serve approximately six months. The 123rd ACS is an integral part of the Air Force Command, Control, Communications,

Computers and Intelligence system by directing air assets and providing surveillance of airspace and supporting mission execution within the assigned area of responsibility (AOR). Within this geographical AOR, the 123rd manages and directs all air defense and airspace management activities. In late October, the City hosted a golf outing for the members of the 123 ACS as a "thank you" for the service personnel based at the ANG station in Blue Ash.

The members of the ANG station in Blue Ash have supported our community and have participated in our local events for many years. Efforts are underway to coordinate continued communication with the deployed members while overseas, including the potential of coordinating "care" packages, greeting cards, etc. Keep an eye on the City's BlueAsh.com website for ways you or your group can get involved in thanking these local troops.

REC CENTER, GOLF COURSE & AIRPORT PARK UPDATE

Recreation Center

Progress continues as scheduled on the Recreation Center "Extreme Makeover"! As you can see from driving by, as well as from the 2009 Community Calendar, the project is well under roof as of late 2008, and is slated for a grand reopening and dedication for Saturday, July 25, 2009, as is noted on your community calendar.

Golf Course

Broad planning, design, and engineering will continue through 2009 for improvements to the Blue Ash Golf Course, including a new clubhouse and banquet facility. It is anticipated that construction will begin in late 2010 to early 2011, depending upon funding availability.

Future 130-Acre Park near the Airport

Planning continues towards the future development of a 130-acre park near the Blue Ash Airport. Although actual development cannot occur until Cincinnati finalizes its airport plans, including relocation of the

existing airport operations along Glendale-Milford Road, behind-the-scenes work will continue throughout the year, especially related to planning and search for funding of the future Performing Arts & Conference Center (PACC) to be oriented towards the Glendale-Milford/Reed Hartman Highway portion of the property. The project has already been granted \$150,000 in State of Ohio support towards the PACC, with similar efforts to be continued in coming years.

Also, as mentioned within the Budget article contained elsewhere in this newsletter, efforts to enhance connectivity to this future park, such as construction or improvements to sidewalks and bikepaths leading to the park, will be funded in 2009 and coming years.

Keep an eye on the BlueAsh.com website for further updates and information regarding these exciting future capital improvements.



Continued conceptual planning on the future 130-acre signature park will continue in 2009. See the December page of the 2009 Blue Ash Community Calendar for another concept visual of this exciting future amenity for our citizens. Concept plan to left by Kinzelman Kline Gossman.



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