

CITY OF BLUE ASH COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



SPRING / SUMMER 2008

SUMMERBRATION - MAY 30, 31 & JUNE 1

Kick off your family's 2008 summer right here in Blue Ash with the annual SummerBration weekend of fun set for May 30, May 31, and June 1.

This fun family event features barbecue cookin'; free local and national-level entertainment (presented by Toyota, B-105, and 97.3 The Wolf); and a family fun area with festival rides, free games, and other entertainment. This year's national country music lineup includes Tracy Byrd, Little Big Town, and Blake Shelton (see schedule on next page). Everything takes place at Towne Square in downtown near Hunt and Cooper

Roads. No tickets are required for admission or for any concert. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for the concerts.



Free shuttle service is available from Raymond Walters College, E.H. Greene School, and Maple Dale Elementary from 6PM to midnight on Friday and Saturday and from 4PM to 11PM Sunday. (Note there will be no pickup at the Municipal & Safety Center/Rec Center due to construction.) Buses are handicapped accessible.

(SummerBration article continued on Page 2.)

BLUE ASH RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY AS A "BEST PLACE TO LIVE & LAUNCH A SMALL BUSINESS"

Blue Ash was excited to learn that we were recently selected to be included in **FORTUNE Small Business** (FSB) magazine's first-ever list of the 100 best places in America to live and launch a small business! In fact, Blue Ash was the **ONLY** Ohio community included on the list. *(FORTUNE award article continued on Page 2.)*

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE & CEREMONIES

Don't miss the 56th annual Blue Ash Memorial Day Parade set for Monday morning, May 26, beginning at 10:15 AM. The parade route will be the same as in recent past years (beginning in the Cooper/Reed Hartman Highway area, traveling east on Cooper to Kenwood, south on Kenwood to Hunt, and east on Hunt to the Veterans Memorial area, where ceremonies will be held). The keynote speaker for this year's ceremonies will be Colonel James H. "Jay" Strickler from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. This year's featured military band will be the 338 Army Reserve Band based in Columbus, Ohio -- see related article in this newsletter regarding a FREE Sunday evening concert on Towne Square by this band on Sunday, May 25.

C'mon, Blue Ash ... don't miss out on this year's parade and ceremonies ... it's a community tradition that shows our respect and appreciation for all those who have served, or are currently serving, our great nation!

RECREATION CENTER PROJECT UPDATE

You can't miss the excitement and activity! Major renovation and construction at the Recreation Center is underway – all made possible by YOU, through voters' approval of Issue 15 in November 2006!

Phase II of the improvements, comprising the bulk of the renovation project along the Cooper Road portion of the building, began in April. Phase I, construction of a new gym towards the back of the building, was completed earlier this year and now serves as the temporary home for many Rec Center programs, including space for classes, the fitness center, and more. Temporary office facilities are also in place.

Demolition began in mid April on the older (1979) portions of the Cooper Road elevation. Reconstruction of a new area will

accommodate a two-story fitness center; an elevated three-lane walking/running track (one-tenth of a mile in length); new locker room areas towards the east; a second entrance facing Cooper Road; and a new open centralized lobby-type space, including family, café, and community lounge areas. This centralized area, essentially where the locker rooms exist today, will be very open, light, and will be accessible to all activity, including to the pool.

The hope is for construction to be complete in mid to late 2009. Because of construction, the venue for the Tuesday evening concert series has changed from the Amphitheatre to Towne Square (see related article on back page of this newsletter).

(Rec Center article & photos continued on Page 3.)

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SUMMERBRATION EVENT INFO (continued from Page 1)

Many thanks to other generous sponsors for making the SummerBration event possible (in addition to Toyota, B-105, and 97.3 The Wolf already mentioned): Academy Rental, Inc; Cincinnati Concession & Catering; Coca Cola; DoubleTree Guest Suites; Hills Communities Development;

LSI Industries; Miller Brewing Company; SmarTravel; and The Cincinnati Enquirer.

For more info, including event rules, call the hotline at 745-6259, or click on the "concerts & special events" calendar on the BlueAsh.com website.

SUMMERBRATION 2008 - Main Stage Entertainment Schedule

Friday, May 30 (Event Hours: 6-11PM):

7PM - Coy Taylor Band

9PM - Tracy Byrd (Country), hits include "The Truth About Men," "Ten Rounds of Jose Cuerva," & more.

Saturday, May 31 (Event Hours: 3-11PM):

4PM - Blue Ash Idol Winners

5PM - Jonalee White

8PM - Bill Whyte

9PM - Little Big Town, hits include "Bring it on Home", "Boondocks," etc.

Sunday, June 1 (Event Hours: 1-10PM):

3PM - TBA

5PM - Dan Varner Band

8PM - Blake Shelton (see photo to right), hits include "Some Beach," "The More I Drink," etc.



Blake Shelton will take the Towne Square stage on Sunday evening. Did you know that Blake was the lead singer for the Oklahoma choir that competed in the "Clash of The Choirs" (eventually won by the Team Cincinnati Choir)? He is known for his generosity and has donated at least \$200,000 over the past two years to the Project Rebuild charity.

FORTUNE RECOGNITION ARTICLE (continued from Page 1)

The editors of FSB compiled the list based on exhaustive statistical and qualitative research. A vast range of criteria was examined, including housing prices, schools, cultural and recreational attractions, quality of labor force, taxes, and the regulatory climate.

Reporters were also assigned to interview business owners, local officials, and economic experts in all 100 places. Blue Ash was listed as #62 on the list of "100 great towns that will feed your soul and nurture your business," included in FSB's April issue.

What is so unique about this award is that it acknowledges not only Blue Ash's efforts to create an environment that assures a quality place for businesses to invest and to call home, but also attests to the fact that Blue Ash is a great place to live. The award is a reflection of your government's commitment, requiring teamwork across all City departments, to provide an exceptional and prosperous environment for both our residential and corporate citizens.

Click on BlueAsh.com to learn more about this award, including a link to the FSB website.



NEWS & TIPS FROM YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT...

Although springtime brings us warmer weather, it also tends to bring increased potential for certain types of crime -- particularly transient thieves and fraudulent home improvement schemes. Oftentimes, such crime targets the elderly. If you have an elderly neighbor, friend, or family member, why not be observant and help to educate them on these potential fraudulent activities ...

BE CAUTIOUS OF TRANSIENT VENDORS ...

Remember that in Blue Ash, all solicitors going door-to-door MUST obtain a permit from the Police. Examples of work these vendors often try to sell include roofing, siding, gutter repair, landscaping, and asphalt repair or paving. Driveway blacktopping is a fraud that unfortunately residents in Blue Ash have experienced. Typically, the vendor will indicate they "have asphalt left over from another job down the road," and they will sell the material at a "reduced cost." Upon completion, the victim is presented with a bill much higher than the original estimate and is intimidated into paying. Also, the asphalt or sealant is almost always improperly installed and begins to deteriorate

soon thereafter. Roofing work is another common means of fraud, when criminals claim to see "serious roof problems" just from driving by the target house. Because most people haven't seen their roof in a while, they may allow the "roofer" to inspect. These "roofers" have actually been seen causing damage (where there was none), or they do not fix anything because they know you will not be up on the roof until long after they are gone. *Be careful!*

Just a few more examples of instances in which residents should exercise extreme caution include instances of "special prices if you sign today"; requiring cash upfront or only cash; and when no references, written estimates, or contracts are provided. **A good rule of thumb: any offer that sounds too good to be true, probably is.**

DON'T LET YOURSELF BE DIVERTED!

Unfortunately, another issue that has occurred in Blue Ash has involved "diversion burglaries." This can occur when someone, for example, asks to be invited into your home, asks to use your phone, or perhaps

tries to get you to come outside to look at something. At the same time, their partner steals jewelry, cash, and other items of value. Sometimes, such thieves travel through neighborhoods looking for you working out in your yard, and then enters through an unlocked back door. Another diversion experienced is that the person affiliates him/herself with a local utility, such as the Water Works or Duke Energy, indicating they need to come inside to "check something out." Don't be fooled!

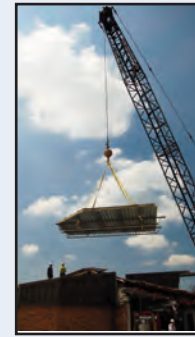
If you suspect you have been approached by a transient vendor or that one is working in your area ... or if you have questions concerning consumer protection laws ... call the Blue Ash Police at 745-8555. If you feel you are being threatened or are in danger, call 9-1-1. Blue Ash has officers knowledgeable in consumer protection issues and will be there to assist and protect you. To learn more about other common cons and scams on the internet, go to www.nabihq.org, and click on "cons and scams."



REC CENTER CONSTRUCTION UPDATE (continued from Page 1)

Another aspect of the Rec Center project involves the relocation of the Towne Square bronze family sculpture to the main entrance area at the renovated Rec Center. The sculpture/fountain is being removed to enhance the stage viewing area at the Square. Another motivation relates to the many leaks and other maintenance concerns associated with the fountain that would have required substantial repairs and expense. The family sculpture will be placed as a focal point near the Rec Center entrance probably late in 2008 or in 2009, and will be enjoyed by hundreds of citizens on a DAILY basis year-round – not just during the warmer event months at Towne Square.

Check out BlueAsh.com for the latest on this and other exciting Blue Ash projects!



Rec Center demo began in mid April. Left photos show various stages, & right photo shows the roof from the former concession area being removed. All metals from the project will be recycled (such as that pictured lower left), & the dirt will be

reused by the City in other City parks & other locations.

BLUE ASH NOTES ...

The **Annual Blue Ash Police Bike Rodeo** is set for **Saturday, June 21**, from 10AM to 1PM, in the **Nature Park parking area**. This is a **free** event targeted for kids (accompanied by a parent) in **grades K-3**. Bring your bike and helmet for a free safety inspection, and then try the safety course. **Food, prizes, and demos** are always a part of this fun annual event. Call Police Dispatch at 745-8555 with questions...



Are you wondering what the **reason** may be for the seemingly “impersonal” **address label on this newsletter** ... and most likely future mailings from the City? It's **not** a mistake ... due to **recent changes in Ohio's public records law**, this change in label/address format has been suggested by legal counsel. We just wanted you to know....

Get ready for this year's **Taste of Blue Ash** set for **August 22, 23, and 24**. National entertainment scheduled includes **WAR** on Friday, **KENNY LOGGINS** on Saturday, and **EDDIE MONEY** on Sunday. As always, all concerts are free and there is **no admission charge** to the event. More info will be included in the next community newsletter to be sent to residents in mid August. Click on BlueAsh.com for details....

With warmer weather here ... this is just a reminder about **safe grilling**, especially for those of you who live in a **multi-family** area of Blue Ash (structures larger than a duplex). Remember ... the **Ohio Fire Code** (including Blue Ash) **prohibits** the use of



grills on combustible balconies and **within ten feet** of combustible construction in residential structures larger than a duplex. Call the Fire Department non-emergency number at 745-8533 with questions...

Congrats to Patrol Officer Pete Ballauer who was one of 20 recipients of the **Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) “Top Cop”** award. **Officer Ballauer** has been with the Blue Ash Police since February 2002, and prior to that was with Clermont County. In 2007 **Officer Ballauer arrested 23 impaired drivers** and accounted for nearly 23% of the entire number of related arrests for the Blue Ash department in 2007....

Best wishes to **long-time citizen, volunteer, and Blue Ash supporter Bill Sikute** and his wife **Janet** who recently **retired** to Tennessee. **Mr. Sikute** served on the Council-appointed **Civil Service Commission** from 1976 to 1984 and on the **Planning Commission** from 2002 to 2008. Mr. Sikute is also a long-time advocate of the Airport, was a **leader in the Issue 15 campaign** in 2006, and has provided many **in-kind services** to his City. **Good luck and best wishes, Bill and Janet ... your many friends at Blue Ash City Hall will miss seeing you regularly! ...**



Mr. Sikute was formally thanked for his many years of volunteer service to Blue Ash at the April 24th Council meeting. Pictured left to right is Mayor Buckman and Bill Sikute.

Just a reminder that this is a **GREAT** time of year to enjoy your **beautiful award-winning**

golf course ... come see for yourself why the Blue Ash course is **nationally ranked**, and why **local Cincinnati area City Beat** readers **AGAIN** ranked the Blue Ash course as their **favorite, out-ranking** all other public and private courses throughout the area! Don't forget too that the **Sandtrap Sandwich Shop** in the **clubhouse** is open and enjoyed by both golfers and non golfers. Check out the fresh sliced deli sandwiches, daily specials, ice cold soft drinks and beer ... including fast, friendly service and the best view anywhere!! Call the course at 686-1280 for tee times or the Sandtrap (including carry-out) at 686-1283....

A **private tour group of 43** citizens who live in or near **Blue Ash's Sister City – Ilmenau, Germany** – visited Blue Ash/Greater Cincinnati the **weekend of May 2nd**. These visitors came to Blue Ash as part of an approximate two-week visit to the USA. Other areas of our country they plan to visit include Washington DC, New York, Niagara Falls, Philadelphia, and Boston. Though the printing deadlines associated with this newsletter would not allow inclusion of photos, the **group plans to visit**, in addition to **Blue Ash, the U.S. Air Force Museum in Dayton**, nearby shopping malls, Union Terminal, Newport Aquarium, and more during their short visit to this area. The group stayed at the **Crowne Plaza Hotel** in Blue Ash....

The City would like to **offer its deepest condolences** to the family and **Raymond Walters College (RWC) work family of Dr. Dolores Straker**, former **Dean of Raymond Walters College**. Dr. Straker passed away in early April after a long battle with cancer. **Dr. Straker will be missed by her many friends here at Blue Ash City Hall.**

ENJOY THE 4TH OF JULY IN BLUE ASH!



Bring your family and friends to the Sports Center, 11540 Grooms Road, for the 2008 WCPO Channel 9/City of Blue

Ash's Red, White & Blue Ash event on Friday, July 4. Gates will open at 2PM for this fun-filled City event, which will feature the region's best July 4 fireworks display and free national-level entertainment, in addition to a family fun area (with festival rides, games, etc.), food, and beverages. This year's national-level entertainment will feature **SHOOTER JENNINGS, 38 SPECIAL, and THE CHARLIE DANIELS BAND.** See article elsewhere in this newsletter regarding the chance to win reserved seats!

There is no admission charge to this event or the concerts, and no tickets are required for

admission. Free shuttle service from the Procter & Gamble lots east and west of Reed Hartman Highway will begin at 3PM. (Many thanks to P&G, The Kroger Co., Brendamour Warehousing, and Hewlett-Packard for their help with nearby parking ... we couldn't do it without you!)

Many thanks to these other sponsors (in addition to WCPO Channel 9): Academy Rental, Inc.; Cincinnati Concession & Catering; Coca Cola; DoubleTree Guest Suites; LSI Industries; Miller Brewing Company; Rozzi's Famous Fireworks; SmarTravel; and The Cincinnati Enquirer.

For more info, including event rules, call the hotline at 745-6259, or click on the "concerts & special events" calendar on the BlueAsh.com website.



Charlie Daniels (pictured upper right) and 38 Special (pictured lower right) are among the national entertainers set for this year's July 4 event at the Sports Center. Did you know that in recent past July 4 events, an estimated 75,000 people have been on the grounds of the Sports Center, and that an estimated additional 30,000 watched the fireworks from peripheral locations?

2007 RECYCLING RESULTS

Congratulations, Blue Ash! In 2007, you recycled 1,390.75 tons of metal, glass, plastic, and paper! On average, each household in Blue Ash recycled 557 pounds in 2007. Did you know that these recycling efforts saved the equivalent of ...

- ✓ 12,233 trees
- ✓ 59,196 gallons of gasoline
- ✓ Enough energy to power 174 average homes for an entire year
- ✓ 1,154 tons of greenhouse gases - equivalent to removing 918 cars from the road

In addition to reducing pollution, conserving natural resources, and decreasing the amount of waste going to the landfill, recycling also

boosts the local economy by creating 169,000 jobs and \$6 billion in annual wages just within the State of Ohio.

Blue Ash makes it easy to recycle ... remember that recycling bins for residents in single-family areas are provided at no cost to residents ... and the free drop-off recycling areas scattered throughout Blue Ash are open to the public.

Good work, Blue Ash ... your recycling efforts really do make a big difference!

Click on the public works section of BlueAsh.com or call 745-8538 to learn more about recycling.



BLUE ASH ROADWORK UPDATE ...

Blue Ash/Hunt Roads

Major road improvements will continue on Blue Ash Road and a portion of Hunt Road throughout most of 2008. Curbs, driveway aprons, portions of driveways and a majority of the sidewalks will also be replaced. Work began in January on the south end of the project, and has been progressing northward. Replacement of an older



water main with a new and larger one has been added to the project, with the cost associated with this replacement to be paid for by Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW). Replacing this older main now will prevent near future potential damage of new roadway surface to be placed later this year. Motorists are encouraged to continue to avoid this area as inconveniences will continue through the year.

Arcadia & Floral Ave. Areas Water Main Project

GCWW began work earlier this year in two neighborhoods to replace all the service main

lines - the entire Arcadia subdivision on the east side of Kenwood Road, ranging from Myrtle Avenue on the south to Prospect Avenue on the north, and the Floral Avenue neighborhood, including side streets. Construction, including restoration, is scheduled to be complete on both GCWW projects this summer.



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

Economic Development

Congratulations to Blue Ash's **Sogeti USA** and **Omya Industries** for receiving the Cincinnati USA Partnership's prestigious annual Growth Award. **Sogeti USA**, nominated by the City of Blue Ash, is a premier provider of information technology services to businesses and public-sector organizations worldwide. Operating for more than 40 years in 24 U.S. locations and globally in 15 countries, France-based Sogeti is a leader in helping clients to develop and implement practical IT solutions, and employs 20,000 people worldwide. In 2007, an additional 102 full-time employees were hired at their Blue Ash site, with an additional 100 full-time anticipated in 2008. **Omya Industries**, nominated by Cincinnati USA Partnership, is an international minerals company which has 25,000 square feet of Class A office space in The Landings office campus in Blue Ash. The Blue Ash facility will consolidate the company's headquarters operations in North America, creating 66 new full-time jobs. Omya is a subsidiary of Omya AG, and worldwide has 5,000 employees (650 in the USA). Omya supplies customers with high quality calcium carbonates and talc needed by the paper, plastics, rubber, coatings, adhesives, building products, and agricultural markets.

Kudos to **Abstract Displays**, a leading trade show exhibit company headquartered in Blue Ash, for recognition of recent business accomplishments. Just a few examples of recent awards include being among the "Emerging 30," recognizing the fastest growing companies in the region based on revenue growth; being selected by Inc. 5,000, a prestigious award by Inc. magazine; and selected by WE Celebrate, honoring women business leaders.

More Chamber Recognition for Blue Ash Businesses

Each year the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber presents Small Business Excellence Awards. This year, there are four Blue Ash companies that are finalists in these categories:

- Emerging Business of the Year: **Amend Consulting**
- 10 Under 10: **Creatives on Call**
- Small Business of the Year, 1-50 employees: **Abstract Displays & Bramkamp Printing**

This year's awards luncheon is set for May 20th, when the winners in the various categories will be announced. Congratulations to the leadership and employees of these companies! We wish you continued success!

Award by *FORTUNE Small Business Magazine (FSB)*

Blue Ash was honored to be included on FSB's first ever list of the top 100 communities from all across America in which to "live and launch a small business." In fact, Blue Ash was the ONLY Ohio community included. See article beginning on Page 1 of this newsletter for more info.

Business Mission Trip with the Greater Cincinnati Chamber (see photos below)

In April, the City Manager participated in a business mission trip to The Netherlands coordinated by the Cincinnati USA Regional Partnership, the economic development initiative directed by the Chamber. About 15 delegates participated in the four-day trip, the major purpose of which was to expose planners, architects, economic development professionals, and developers from the Cincinnati region to cutting edge sustainability and "green" architecture taking place in Holland, recognized as world leaders in this field. During the trip, the group had the opportunity to learn about renewable and alternative energy at the world's largest waste-to-energy facility, and also met with leading Dutch architecture firms specializing in green architecture. Several networking events were also held to introduce Dutch businesses and investors to the potential of conducting business in the Greater Cincinnati area, including Blue Ash. A second leg of the trip was to Paris to host additional business prospects and current international investors in the Cincinnati area (including Blue Ash's Sogeti) at the Cincinnati

Symphony Orchestra concert in Paris on April 10.

In addition to the City Manager, there were several other "ties" to Blue Ash among delegates, including Ellen van der Horst, President of the Greater Cincinnati Chamber, who lives in Blue Ash; Paul Allaer, an attorney with Thompson Hine who resides in Blue Ash; Charlie Jahnigan, a Blue Ash native and architect with Steed Hammond Paul, and who also formerly worked for the City of Blue Ash; and Dick Thomas, also with Steed Hammond Paul (SHP). SHP is the architecture firm selected to work with Blue Ash on the future Golf Course clubhouse and improvements.

Community Development & Property Maintenance

Blue Ash is a great place to live because, for the most part, Blue Ash residents take pride in their homes and neighborhoods. The City's property maintenance codes were created to promote the health, safety, and well-being of residents and neighborhoods through encouraging adherence to City codes. Compliance protects property values and neighborhoods against deteriorating influences. The City's property maintenance personnel regularly identify Code issues and respond to complaints regarding potential violations.

Spring is a great time to assess your property, and we can make it easier! The City has developed a property maintenance checklist to assist in evaluating the exterior condition of your property. The checklist can be found within the Community Development portion of BlueAsh.com, can be picked up at the Community Development Office at City Hall, or can be mailed or faxed upon request by calling 745-8520. Together, we can make sure Blue Ash remains a desirable residential and business community for all to enjoy.



Netherlands business mission photos: Left: Pictured L to R, City Manager David Waltz, Chamber President & Blue Ash resident Ellen van der Horst, & Wynn Portman of Portman Equipment. Center: the famous Erasmus Bridge which links the northern & southern halves of Rotterdam, Netherlands. Right: Wynn Portman promoting the Greater Cincinnati business region to Netherlands business & economic development leaders.

COMMUNITY BULLETINS...

The **BLUE ASH/MONTGOMERY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** kicks off the summer on Towne Square on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26th, at 6PM (rain location: Sycamore Junior High). The concert will feature the winner of the Young Artist Competition in the Strings Category, a moving tribute dedicated to the victims of the tragic events of September 11, 2001 (featuring the Cincinnati Choral Society), the Blue Ash Youth Symphony, and much more. Fixed seating at Towne Square is limited ... bring your lawn chairs or blankets. The Symphony will also perform Thursday evening, July 3rd, in Montgomery Park. All concerts are free and open to the public. Call 232-0949 or click on www.bamso.org for more info...



Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Orchestra

Congratulations to **SYCAMORE SCHOOLS** for having three schools named as "State Schools of Distinction," an award presented by the Ohio Department of Education. The award program recognizes schools whose students, including those with disabilities, achieve high academic performance. Blue Ash Elementary, Maple Dale Elementary, and Montgomery Elementary were all selected to receive the award by the State Superintendent for the 2006-07 school year.

TRIHEALTH FITNESS & HEALTH PAVILION

is offering a number of free activities from June 9-15 at its Pfeiffer Road location in recognition of Men's Health Week (the week leading up to Father's Day). During this week, complimentary physician-led lectures; cholesterol, glucose, & PSA Screenings; special group exercise classes; and much more will be offered for men. Call Lindy Neal at 985-6732 or E-mail lindy_neal@trihealth.com for more details on these free activities open to the public...



Congratulations to the staff and students of **URSULINE ACADEMY** who participated in the Big Pony Tail Cut-Off in April to benefit the Pantene Beautiful Lengths program which makes wigs for cancer patients at no charge. Ursuline students donated more than 40 feet of hair!

The **BLUE ASH WOMANS CLUB'S** annual Garden Tour is set for Saturday, June 14th, from Noon to 4PM, beginning at the Gazebo Tea Garden at 10461 Kenwood Road. Call Beverly at 891-4043 for more info on this fun annual event or the Womans Club in general....

The **SYCAMORE SENIOR CENTER** offers an abundance of activities for senior members as well as nonmembers. Something new planned in 2008 is Monte Carlo Night set for Wednesday, June 18th, from 6PM - 10PM. Drinks, hors d'oeuvres, casino games, and much more fun is planned. Call the Center at 984-1234 with questions about Monte Carlo Night, or to find out more about the hundreds of activities available to you -- including many day trips, classes, and celebrations planned each month at the Blue Ash based Sycamore Senior Center. Call the Center ... you'll be so glad you did!



The Sycamore Senior Center offers many classes & activities for area senior citizens. Pictured above are two gentlemen participating in a computer class. Photo courtesy of SSC.

Did you know that **DUKE ENERGY** offers, through its Smart \$aver Program, a rebate for installing a new high-efficiency heating or cooling system? A customer in an existing home can receive \$200 or \$400 (depending on the system). To find out more about Duke's Smart \$aver program, to print an

application form, or to learn more energy saving tips, visit www.duke-energy.com/savings, or call 1-866-785-6209....

Blue Ash based **MATTHEW 25: MINISTRIES (M25M)** rescues millions of pounds of overstock, off-spec, and out-of-style products from going to the landfill and redistributes them to the poor and to disaster victims locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. In addition to its regular charitable and humanitarian work, a special recent effort involves M25M's work to encourage the younger generation to take a stand against extreme poverty through the social networking website "Facebook." By joining the "Will Work to End Poverty" cause through Facebook's "Causes Platform" function, members can take a stand against extreme poverty, and financially support M25M work. Call 793-6256 with questions about any M25M effort, or to offer your volunteer services to this internationally recognized and award-winning charitable organization located right here in your home town!

Congratulations to **Lauren Lynn** of Blue Ash, this year's winner of the **BLUE ASH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (BABA)** scholarship! Lauren is an honor student who will graduate from Sycamore High in 2008. She plans to continue her interests of psychology, neuroscience, and biology into college. Lauren is also active in high school athletics, including softball, volleyball, and bowling. She holds the distinct honor of being the first player to hit a softball over the Sycamore field fence! The BABA scholarship is a \$2,000 renewable scholarship.

STAMP YOUR ART OUT!, a rubber stamp store in downtown Blue Ash, will host their annual Stampaway USA Rubber Stamp Convention on Saturday, August 9th, at the Sharonville Convention Center. For more info, click on www.stampawayusa.com, stop in the store at 9685 Kenwood Road, or call 793-4558.



DID YOU KNOW THAT IN 2008, THE TUESDAY EVENING SUMMER CONCERT SERIES WILL BE HELD AT TOWNE SQUARE (INSTEAD OF THE AMPHITHEATRE) DUE TO CONSTRUCTION AT THE RECREATION CENTER? SEE RELATED ARTICLE ON THE BACK OF THIS NEWSLETTER FOR MORE INFO...

RESIDENTIAL TREE PROGRAM

Blue Ash City Council has authorized continued funding in 2008 for a residential tree program which provides assistance to property owners for planting of trees on residential properties in publicly visible locations.

This program has been in place for at least the past seven or eight years, and residents have taken advantage of the program to plant hundreds of trees throughout our community. Note that the intention for the tree program is to allow the planting of up to two trees per residence.

The Basics of the Residential Tree Program...

- This program offers Blue Ash homeowners a discount coupon towards the cost of trees purchased for planting in front or side yards – the planted tree must be visible to the public. To receive this discount, you must first get a coupon from us and purchase your tree through a participating nursery. To order your coupon, call (513) 745-8500 (then dial 0), during normal office hours (weekdays between 8AM and 5PM). You will receive your discount at the time of purchase when you present the coupon to the nursery.

- The coupon allows each residence a discount of up to 50% off the cost of each tree, including planting, up to a maximum discount of \$150 per tree.

- Participating nurseries include Denny McKeown's Bloomin Garden Centre, 8793 Kenwood Road; Natorp's, 5373 Merten Drive off Mason-Montgomery Road; Sharon Nursery, 7319 Columbia Road near King's Island; Stefani Landscaping, 5381 Wooster Road in Linwood; and, NEW IN 2008 - H.J. Benken Garden Center, 6000 Plainfield Road.

- The tree(s) must be planted by the nursery either in your front or side yard at the Blue Ash address on the coupon. The overall goal is for the tree to be seen by the public, not just by people at your residence.

- All you need to do is order and get your coupon, visit one of the nurseries listed, pick out an appropriate tree for its intended location, present your coupon upon payment, and work with the nursery to schedule its planting.

- It is the resident's choice as to what type of tree to get – but keep in mind that the tree

must be planted (by the nursery) in the front or side yard or otherwise visible to the public. The nursery can help you choose an appropriate tree variety given the planting location. (Before planting, it is the resident's responsibility to have underground utilities marked in the planting area -- call the Ohio Utility Protection Service 1-800-362-2764. There is no cost to you to use the services of OUPS).



- It is the resident's responsibility to provide proper care for the tree, following your nursery's guidelines. The trees will have a minimum one-year guarantee period; however, this guarantee applies only when the tree has been cared for properly. It is the resident's responsibility to work with the nursery to learn how to properly care for the tree, and any problems must be resolved between the resident and nursery.

Questions about the tree program can be directed to the Reception Desk at 745-8500.

RESERVED SEATING CONTEST INFO FOR SPECIAL EVENTS...

Back by popular demand is the chance for Blue Ash residents to win reserved seating for the national entertainment for special events! Included below is info related to July 4th and Taste of Blue Ash. Although there is a contest also associated with SummerBration, info is not included in this newsletter due to timing of mailing/registration.

How to Register ... Only Blue Ash residents can register – maximum of one entry per per-

son per day allowed. You can register ...

- By E-mail to recreation@blueash.com;
- By Fax to 745-8527;
- By Mail or in person to Blue Ash Rec Center, ATTN: Seating Contest, 4433 Cooper Rd., Blue Ash, OH, 45242.

Please provide name, address, daytime phone, evening phone, & the date(s) you would like reserved seats.

For each event, eight winners will receive four reserved seats each.

For the JULY 4TH event ... Entries accepted June 6-20. Winners notified by Fri., June 27.

For the TASTE OF BLUE ASH event ... Entries accepted July 25 - Aug. 8. Winners notified by Fri., Aug. 15.

Call 745-8550 with questions.

BEAUTIFICATION WEEK INFO ...

Beautification week is approaching, and we need your help with nominations, Blue Ash!

Nominations will be accepted from May 19 – 30. It's easy! Here's how you can suggest the property(s) in Blue Ash you think deserve a beautification week award:

- By calling the City at 745-8500 (then dial zero) weekdays between 8AM and 5PM;



- By faxing nominations to 745-8594;
- By E-mail to administration@blueash.com;
- By mail or in-person to the Municipal & Safety Center, 4343 Cooper Road, Blue Ash, Ohio 45242.

All properties nominated for an award will be judged by the Committee sometime between June 9 and 13, and the Committee will choose about ten residential finalists and two business finalists. The public can vote

for the "people's choice" award June 18 through June 27 at the Recreation Center. Photos of the nominated properties will be posted in the Rec Center (near the new temporary check-in desk).

Beautification Week awards will be presented at an upcoming Council meeting. For more information on Beautification Week, call Councilman Lee Czerwonka at 745-0402.

TUESDAY SUMMER CONCERT SERIES MOVED TO TOWNE SQUARE IN 2008

If you haven't already heard ... the decision was made to change the location of the summer Tuesday evening concert series in 2008 to TOWNE SQUARE. Please note that this change of venue is a temporary change from its traditional location at the Amphitheatre Park. The change was necessary in order to address concerns of safety (especially for our elderly citizens and patrons), as well as the shortage of parking area due to the construction and renovation project. The City anticipates the Tuesday Concert Series in 2009 will be back in its traditional Amphitheatre Park location. Concerts begin at 7PM, unless noted.

TUESDAY CONCERTS AT A GLANCE...

June 3	Lee's Junction Big Band
June 10	Sycamore Community Band
June 17	Comet Bluegrass Allstar Band
June 24	The Klüberheads
July 1	Frank Simon Band
July 8	The Smittie Orchestra
July 15	Ricky Nye & The Swingin' Muddbugs
July 22, 6PM	The Marlins
July 29	The UC Community Band
Aug. 5	The Monday Night Big Band
Aug. 12	Pete Wagner's Schnapps Band
Aug. 19	The USAF Band of Flight
Aug. 26	Cincinnati Brass Band
Sept. 2	Southwestern Ohio Symphonic Band

Check out BlueAsh.com for the schedule of our Friday evening summer concert series at the Square!

FREE ARMY BAND CONCERT - SUNDAY, MAY 25 - TOWNE SQUARE

The featured military band for the Memorial Day activities, the 338 Army Band based in Columbus, Ohio, will perform a FREE concert on Towne Square at 6PM, Sunday, May 25. Bring your family and friends ... and perhaps

even a picnic supper ... to Towne Square and enjoy the patriotic sounds of this prestigious, national-level military band. What a great way to show your support for our troops! The concert is free and open to the public.



UPCOMING EVENTS ... MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- ◆ Sun., May 25338 Army Band concert at Towne Square, 6PM
- ◆ Mon., May 26.....Memorial Day Parade & Ceremonies, 10:15AM
- ◆ Mon., May 26.....Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony, Towne Square, 6PM
- ◆ May 30 - June 1...SummerBratton, see related article & BlueAsh.com
- ◆ Tues., June 3.....First Tuesday Concert - note location change to Towne Square; see related article & BlueAsh.com
- ◆ Fri., June 6....First Friday Concert, Towne Square; see BlueAsh.com
- ◆ Sat., June 14Historical Hunt House Open House, Noon - 2PM
- ◆ Sat., June 21Police Bike Rodeo, 10AM, see "Notes" article
- ◆ Sat., June 28.....Family Moonlight Swim at the Pool
- ◆ Fri., July 4.....Red, White & Blue Ash July 4th celebration at the Sports Center, see related article & BlueAsh.com
- ◆ Fri. August 1Dive-In Movie at the Pool
- ◆ Aug. 22-24Taste of Blue Ash



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