



On the Move

a newsletter for citizens

April 2010

www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov

Commissioners: Bob Proud, Scott Croswell, and Ed Humphrey



Clermont Needs Spring Cleaning Volunteers!

Volunteers are needed for the annual Clermont 20/20 Clean and Green Spring Litter Pickup; the event will be held at numerous staging areas throughout the county on Saturday, April 17, 2010. "This is a great way to give back to your community," said organizer Becky

Ploucha. The event begins with registration at 9 a.m. Volunteers will be provided with trash bags and t-shirts; after the cleanup, those participating are invited to a free cookout. "We encourage Scout troops, businesses, church groups, and families to get involved," said Ploucha. Every year, hundreds of bags of trash are collected, resulting in a more attractive Clermont County.

"On Sunday, there will be another opportunity to help the community through a litter pickup, and a clothing and computer drive in New Richmond," said Ploucha. Between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., a variety of events will be held at the downtown bandstand

and a communitywide litter pickup will occur. "We also invite citizens

to donate gently used interview-appropriate attire for women and contemporary prom dresses," she said. "Those items and old computers can be dropped off at the Rogers House, located at 307 Front Street."



Becky Ploucha with Clean and Green collects litter in Amelia's Groh Park

April 2010 marks the 40th anniversary of the first Earth

Day celebration. The litter pickups and recycling events locally are part of the billions of people in 190 countries taking action for Earth Day. Organizers promote Earth Day as a pivotal opportunity for individuals, corporations, and governments to join together and create a global green economy.

For more information about the Clean and Green Spring Litter Pickup and recycling opportunities, visit the Web site www.Clermont2020.org or call Becky Ploucha with Clean and Green at (513) 753-9222.

Commissioners Town Meeting on April 19

Citizens living in Jackson, Stonelick, and Wayne Townships, along with the villages of Newtonsville and Owensville are invited to attend the first in a series of town meetings the Board of Clermont County Commissioners will hold in 2010. The Monday, April 19 meeting will be held from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at the Clermont Northeastern (CNE) Schools Early Childhood Education Center, located at 2792 US Route 50 in Stonelick Township.

Topics of community and countywide interest, along with presentations from various township and village governments, and CNE school leaders will be on the agenda. Among the presentations will be an update on the Cecos site and efforts by the Clermont County Veterans' Services Office about having state school curriculum rewritten for a greater emphasis on history.

There will be an opportunity for citizen questions and concerns. For additional information, contact the Clermont County Office of Public Information at (513) 732-7597. Future town meeting dates, times, and locations will be posted to the Web site www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov.

County, Chamber, and ED3C Recognized for Economic Development Practices,

Clermont County, the Clermont Chamber, and Economic Development Corporation of Clermont County (ED3C) recently received the UC Economics Center Award.

Each year the UC Economics Center recognizes local examples of outstanding economic development practices. Clermont County, the Clermont Chamber, and ED3C were recognized for grounding their practices in economic research, improving the economic welfare of the people of Clermont County, and leading the way in innovative and thoughtful approaches to economic development. Using the Economics Center's research and consulting services, this public-private partnership identified high opportunity industries and workforce needs.



Thomas Heekin, Chairman UC Economics Center for Education and Research, Steve Wharton, Executive Director ED3C (Economic Development Corporation of Clermont County), Scott Croswell, Clermont County Commissioner, and Matt Van Sant, President/CEO Clermont Chamber of Commerce

Clermont County has its own You Tube channel.

Check it out at

www.youtube.com/clermontcounty

April Commissioner Sessions

Wed., April 7	1 p.m.
Mon., April 12	1 p.m.
Wed., April 14	1 p.m.
Mon., April 19	3 p.m.
Wed., April 21	1 p.m.
Mon., April 26	3 p.m.
Wed., April 28	1 p.m.

All meetings are held in the third floor session room of the Clermont County Administration Building located at 101 E. Main Street in Batavia. Call (513) 732-7300 for additional information.

Walk for Clermont Kids

To raise awareness for foster care programs in Clermont County, the Department of Job and Family Services Children's Protective Services (CPS) division will hold a *Walk for Clermont Kids* on Saturday, May 1, 2010 at the Batavia Township Community Center, located at 1535 Clough Pike. Registration begins at 9 a.m.; the walk begins at 10 a.m., rain or shine.

"If you want to help our county's foster children, we encourage you to participate," said Ashley Thompson, CPS. "We have so much fun during the walk, and it's even more fun to bring your entire family, or do the

walk as a team. We ask that participants raise \$25, which directly benefits foster children."

Lunch will be provided after the walk for all registered participants and volunteers. Early bird participants (who register by April 10) will receive a t-shirt. There will be youth activities before and after the walk; children under 18 may participate in the walk at no charge, but must have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian.

You can register online at www.walkforclermontkids.org, or call (513) 732-7173.



Sheriff Rodenberg Appointed to State Sentencing Commission



Sheriff A.J. "Tim" Rodenberg is a newly appointed member of the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission.

Appointed by Ohio's Governor Strickland, Sheriff Rodenberg will be representing Ohio's 88 sheriffs on the commission that reviews and critiques pending state legislation concerning criminal laws and penalties.



History Comes Alive!

Step back into time at the 18th annual Grassy Run Rendezvous April 23-25, 2010, at the Community Park in Williamsburg. Visit the Web site www.GrassyRun.org or call (513) 734-1119 for more information.

Should You Pay to Use Library Computers or the Internet?

By: Amy Prewitt, Clermont Public Library

Connect Ohio revealed statewide public library survey results that show great need for free access to public computers and Internet. Over \$60 million in stimulus funds may be used in Ohio to help fund expansion of public computing centers at Ohio public libraries.

Connect Ohio gathered vital information about the need and accessibility of computers and Internet via online surveys offered at public libraries throughout Ohio. The statewide Connect Ohio survey received over 7,000 survey entries, and 12 individuals were randomly selected to receive a Netbook computer. Tonya Lynn Compton of Union Township was one of the winners.

Executive Library Director Dave Mezack, County Commissioner Ed Humphrey, and Don Shirley, Connect Ohio State Operations Manager presented Compton with her prize on Tuesday, March 23 at the



Library Director Dave Mezack, Connect Ohio's Don Shirley, Tonya Lynn Compton, UT Branch Manager Beth Lammrish, and Commissioner Ed Humphrey

Union Township Branch Library.

"I was so excited when I found out I won," offered Compton. "I come to the library every day to use the Internet. I'll still be visiting the library even though I won this computer. I love the library."

Some survey highlights:

- 50 percent of respondents do not have Internet access in the home
- 72 percent revealed they come to the library for computer use and library

services

- 28 percent said they come to the library specifically for computer use
- Over one-quarter of respondents with no home computer use the public computers at the library daily.

Connect Ohio is a nonprofit, technology-neutral, public-private partnership that works with telecommunications providers, business and community leaders, information

technology companies, researchers, public agencies, libraries, and universities in an effort to help extend affordable high-speed Internet service to every Ohio household. View survey results and info about Connect Ohio by visiting, www.connectohio.org.

Scam Artists on the Prowl

By: Rick Combs, Chief Deputy

In early March, my neighbor received a letter via US Mail from a company called WoodStock, Inc. entitled "Final Compensation Notification." The letter listed a claim number and was accompanied by an official looking check in the amount of \$2,850 drawn on the Zions Bank, Salt Lake City, Utah (a legitimate bank but incorrect telephone number). The letter expressly stated he had won an "appreciation bonanza" in the amount of \$75,000 and referenced several well known and established retail stores that were involved and sponsoring the contest. He was to call a contact number and pay the federal taxes on the winnings via Western Union and deposit the check after this had been accomplished, which covered the taxes and was part of the winnings. The remaining amount of \$72,150 would be sent via a cashier's check and delivered by Federal Express.

Naturally, after further review we discovered the bank had no knowledge of the check or contest and the phone numbers listed did not exist. The check was not authorized by the bank and the entire incident was a scam geared to take my neighbor's hard-earned money.

These types of scams are very common and can appear official, with well written letters and checks written in the recipient's name and

drawn upon banks with legitimate addresses yet phone numbers are often inaccurate. However, these types of scams most always require the recipient to send them a personal check prior to redeeming the grand prize or cash an accompanying check.

If it seems too good to be true, chances are it is a scam - don't fall for the trick. Here are some common sense things to look for when receiving a "congratulations letter" or something claiming you have won a prize.

- Corporations with unfamiliar names
- Phone numbers that when dialed, the phone is never answered
- Mail postmarked from outside of the United States
- Letters or emails saying you have won the lottery or "check enclosed"
- Phrases in the letters such as "keep this confidential"

If you receive a suspicious check, contact the issuing bank by looking in the phone book for the listed numbers (never trust phone numbers on a letter of this type) to inquire about its validity. Many times the banks are unaware they are being used to facilitate a fraud. You can directly report these scams online and learn about the most up



to date scams at www.ic3.gov. You may also report your concerns or questions to local police or sheriff deputies who can check the information and make a report in the event that the Internet is unavailable to you.

Become a Clermont County Facebook Fan

Clermont County now has a Facebook page dedicated to updating everyone on the many exciting programs and initiatives that are underway in the county.

Become a "fan" of Clermont County by visiting the Web site

www.facebook.com/clermontcounty.



April Clermont Park Events

By: Keith Robinson, Park District

Marsh Madness

Friday, April 9, 7:30 p.m. – Chilo Lock #34 Park

We'll walk around the edge of the wetland in search of the small but noisy frogs that are common this time of year. Listen for spring peepers and chorus frogs as they sing the night away in hopes of attracting a mate. Bring a flashlight and be prepared to get your feet wet and muddy. Meet at the visitor center.



40th Anniversary Walk and Talk

Wednesday, April 21, 1 p.m. – Sycamore Park

Join Park District Director Chris Clingman for a walk and explore the history of Sycamore Park. He will share photos and stories on the history of the park, plus take a look at the colorful spring wildflowers along the paved trail. Meet at the Sycamore Woods shelter.



Wildflower Walk

Wednesday, April 28, 6 p.m. – Sycamore Park

Take a naturalist guided walk and enjoy the carpet of wildflowers at Sycamore Park. The annual display of flowers should be quite colorful. We'll search for Virginia bluebells, celandine poppy, trout lilies, trilliums, and many other colorful spring flowers. Meet at the pedestrian bridge.

Garlic Mustard Pull

Saturday, April 10, 9 a.m. – Sycamore Park

Lend a hand to nature! We will continue the habitat improvements that began last fall by pulling garlic mustard, a highly invasive plant. Removing this troublesome plant will give the already beautiful display of spring woodland wildflowers an even better opportunity to shine. Light refreshments will be served after the pull, followed by a nature hike beginning at 11:30 a.m. For more information or to sign up, call (513) 876-9013.



Saturday, April 17, 10 a.m. – Crooked Run Nature Preserve

The garlic mustard pull continues at Crooked Run Nature Preserve. Light refreshments will be served after the pull, followed by a nature hike at 2:30 p.m. For more information or to sign up, call (513) 876-9013.

For more information about these or other Clermont Park District events, call (513) 876-9013. Visit the Park District Web site at www.parks.ClermontCountyOhio.gov for the Spring Newsletter and information about all of Clermont County's beautiful county parks!



Google Maps, Move Over.....

By: Kelly Perry, Clermont Geographic Information Systems

Looking for a Clermont County office but you're not sure just where it is? Is Google Maps getting you close, but not quite there? Then check out Clermont County's

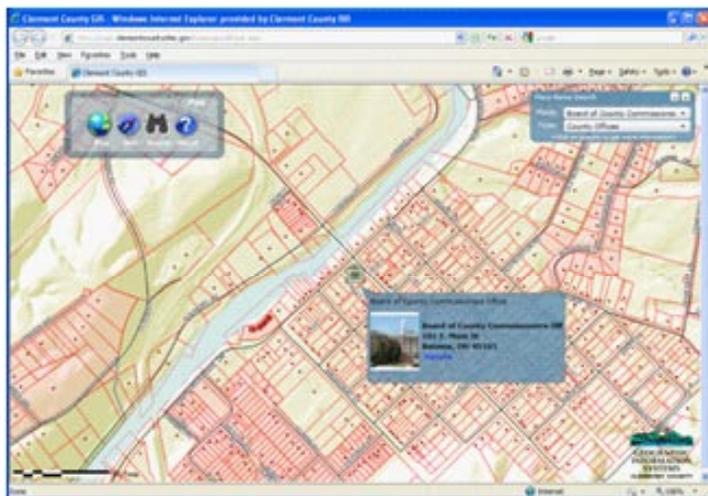
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Web mapping available at

www.gis.clermontcountyoio.gov.

Developed using the latest in web mapping technology, Clermont County's GIS web mapping provides users with current information and the latest aerial photography right at their fingertips.

The site includes the ability to search by address, parcel number, or owner name, and now includes searches by *PLACE* such as county offices, parks, libraries or even those community names from long ago (do you know where Blowville is located?). When searching for these places, a drop-down list is available for each specific type of place.

Upon making a selection from the drop-down list, the map quickly zooms to the selected place. Once that is done, the user can hover their mouse over



the place and see a call-out box with additional information such as a picture, the address, and even a link to their Web site, if available.

This new site will be a tremendous help for many, whether you're a county resident trying to find the Recorder's office, a historian looking for Epworth Heights, or if you're just looking for Eastgate Mall so that you can spend the day shopping!



Volunteers Needed for East Fork River Sweep

By: Becky McClatchey,
Soil and Water Conservation

This year marks the 18th anniversary for the East Fork River Sweep and event organizers are calling on volunteers to give the East Fork a proper spring cleaning. The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 24 from 9 a.m. until noon.

The River Sweep is an all-volunteer effort to clean up the East Fork of the Little Miami River. Volunteers canoe the river and walk the stream-banks to collect garbage along selected segments of the East Fork River from Williamsburg to Milford. Crews also clean the shoreline at East Fork Lake and Stonelick Lake State Parks. Refreshments, gloves, and trash bags are provided to all volunteers and a picnic lunch will be available to all participants at the conclusion of the cleanup.

"The River Sweep provides an opportunity for people to enjoy the outdoors and have fun while helping to protect the river," says Becky McClatchey, Watershed Coordinator for Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District.

To register for the event, call the Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District at (513) 732-7075 or East Fork State Park at (513) 732-4323.

Senior Coffee Hour

Wednesday, April 7, 10:30 a.m. –
New Richmond Branch
Seniors are invited for an interactive program about energy, circuits, and more!
For more information or to register, call (513) 533-0570.



Learn to Crochet

Mondays, April 12 and 19, 6 p.m.
– Williamsburg Branch
Teens and adults will learn to make a simple granny square and create a purse. Participants can choose from yarn provided or bring two skeins of yarn of your choice. Everyone must bring their own size K crochet hook. For more information or to register, call (513) 724-1070.

Family Fun Night: Kites and Wind

Monday, April 12, 7 p.m.
– Goshen Branch
Bring the entire family for stories about kites and wind, play games, and make cool crafts to take home. For more information or to register, call (513) 722-1221.



Family Game Night

Tuesday, April 13, 5:30 p.m. –
Owensville Branch
Bring the whole family for a fun evening of playing Wii games. For more information or to register, call (513) 732-6084.

Spy School

Tuesday, April 13, 6:30 p.m. – Union Township Branch
Good readers in grades 2-6 are invited to train for a top secret mission. Choose an alias, learn to decode, disarm and avoid spy traps, and test your skills by completing a timed team mission.
For more information or to register, call (513) 528-1744. When you call to register, you will be given your secret entry code.



Special Performance

Tuesday, April 13, 1 p.m. – Milford-Miami Township Branch
*Join the library for a special performance of **Walking through the Seasons with Sheep and Sheldon** by the Hands Up! Puppet Troupe. For more information or to register, call (513) 248-0700.*

It's Fun to be Frugal!

Monday, April 19, 7 p.m. – Goshen Branch
Learn how to cut corners to reduce your budget and save money. Discover print and electronic sources to help with household budgets, menu planning, how to find Web site deals, and more! For more information or to register, call (513) 722-1221.



Make a Tea Time Craft

Monday, April 19, 7 p.m. – Felicity Branch
Bring your own cup and saucer to make a one-of-a-kind tea cup light.

All other supplies will be provided. For more information or to register, call (513) 876-4134.

To learn more about these and other Clermont County Public Library events, visit the Web site www.ClermontLibrary.org.

Satellite Pet Adoptions

The Clermont County Humane Society will hold satellite pet adoptions on the following dates in April at the Eastgate Petsmart store:

Saturday, April 10
10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 24
10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The satellite adoption events are a great opportunity to meet some of the wonderful animals available for adoption at the Clermont Animal Shelter. Volunteers from the Humane Society will be available to answer any questions you may have.

If you are unable to come to the satellite adoptions, the Clermont Animal Shelter is open Monday through Saturday, from 11:30 a.m. through 4 p.m. The shelter is located at 4025 Filager Road in Batavia.



For more information, call the shelter at (513) 732-8854 or visit the Web site www.ClermontAnimalShelter.com.

Clermont County Permit Central

NEWS

2275 Bauer Road Batavia, Ohio 45103 Phone: (513) 732-7213 www.permit.ClermontCountyOhio.gov

Deck the House with Planned Design

By: Sharman Hensley, Permit Central

Great Decks Don't Just Happen

They are the result of careful planning and consideration of who will use the outdoor entertaining and living space.

The secret to creating a great deck is planning. For example,

will it be a place for children to play, a spot for sunbathing, or a place for great outdoor dining? Is the view from the deck site pleasant, or does it face directly onto the back or side of a neighbor's rickety garage?

Think About Deck Size

Skimping on the size of the deck is probably the most common planning error. Base the deck size on a combination of variables, including lifestyle and needs, lot size, the topography of the site, and the budget. Keep in mind that a long, narrow deck is

not as useful as a square or nearly square deck, which provides the greatest number of options for ar-

ranging furniture and carrying out a variety of activities.



Outdoor Dining

If plans call for outdoor dining space,

allow for a table and chairs, and provide for easy accessibility to the kitchen. Add even more square footage to the deck if including a seating area, a grill, or spa tub. If cooking on the deck, situate the grill far enough away from doors and windows so that smoke doesn't fill the house.

Adding a deck to your home will provide the perfect spot to enjoy the fresh air and relax. Building a deck for your house is easier when you have basic step-by-step building instructions. Follow the steps above and have that dream deck

you've always wanted for your house. Don't forget to obtain your building permit (from the county) and zoning permit (from your village or township) and have all of your inspections completed before enjoying your deck.

Our Web site has the information (application, frequently asked questions, deck guide) to help you easily plan your deck. See our guide for building decks at

www.permit.clermontcountyohio.gov.

What's a deck worth?

Remodeling Magazine's "Remodeling Cost vs. Value Report" found that more than 85 percent of the cost of building a wooden deck could be recouped during resale — compared with 78 percent for a bathroom remodel and 69 percent for a family room addition.

Permit Central News

Alternative Energy

By: Andy Johns, Community Planning and Development

As energy costs rise and resources become limited, homeowners, businesses, and utility companies are looking into ways to generate alternative energy. Locally, two townships have proactively included provisions for alternate energy into their zoning resolutions.

In late 2009, Williamsburg Township asked the Planning Commission to review and comment on text amendments to include solar farms as a conditional use within their agricultural district. In January 2010, Jackson Township also asked

the Planning Commission to review and comment on a new section within their zoning resolution regulating residential and commercial wind energy systems.

Both of these townships have recognized the importance of alternative energy as a means to generate renewable power in the future. Accommodating these uses align



very well with several statewide energy initiatives and a new law establishing a requirement that 25 percent of Ohio's electricity be produced from advanced energy technologies by 2025.

When Dreams Become Reality

By: Annette Decatur, Community Planning and Development

The Clermont County Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) is continuing to move forward with several applicants beginning to realize their dream of home ownership. The NSP program is designed to assist middle income individuals and families in the purchase of homes that have been foreclosed upon. They receive help with the down payment and the rehabilitation of the newly purchased home.



Applicants must be willing to live in the target areas of Bethel (specifically Tate Township), the Amelia Village area, and parts of eastern Union Township.

Applicants will be chosen through a process that demonstrates their ability to make payments on the mortgage with the lender. Applicants will be eligible with an income less than 120 percent of the Area Median Income (i.e., a family of four can have an income up to \$83,040.00 per year).

This is not meant as a low income

program, because the homeowner has to have the ability to pay the mortgage plus the normal monthly bills, insurance, and taxes that occur with the ownership of a home. The potential owner will be required to have eight hours of homebuyer counseling by a HUD approved counseling organization. This counseling will include bill management, future expenses for the home, budgeting, home care, maintenance, financing, and other items of interest.

You can download a copy of the NSP application from the Clermont County Web site www.planning.clermontcountyohio.gov.



Animals Currently Available for Adoption

call 732-8854 for
adoption information



Biscuit



Alvin



Emily



Buffy



Buster



Lucy



Agatha



Izzy



Sugar



Benji



Zilla



Sebastian



Easy Ground Beef Stew

By: Margaret Jenkins, OSU Extension

Calling All Weather Buffs...

(makes four 8oz. servings)

Ingredients:

- ½ pound ground beef, ground turkey, or venison
- ½ teaspoon salt (optional)
- ⅛ teaspoon pepper (optional)
- 1 – 10 ¾ ounce can tomato soup, condensed
- Water, one soup can full
- 6 medium diced or sliced carrots
- 2 medium diced or sliced potatoes
- 1 cup diced onion

Preparation:

1. Brown meat. Drain fat, if any. Season lightly with salt and pepper (optional).
2. Add soup and one can water to meat in the frying pan. Add vegetables.
3. Bring to a boil, simmer covered for about 25 minutes or until tender. Remove from heat, cover for last 10 minutes to thicken.
4. Serve. Refrigerate leftovers.

Variations:

Add any “planned-overs” such as peas, green beans, celery, mushrooms, or noodles

Cost Per recipe: \$3.90

Per serving: \$0.98

NUTRITION FACTS PER SERVING: 250 calories, 8g total fat, 3g saturated fat 20g protein, 27g carbohydrates, 50mg cholesterol, 6g dietary fiber, 27 mg sodium



Margaret Jenkins

If you're fascinated with watching the weather, then Weather Spotter Training is for you! The Clermont County Emergency Management Agency will hold Weather Spotter Training on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at the Goshen Middle School Cafeteria, located at 6692 Goshen Road. The training will begin at 6:30 p.m.



Guest speaker National Weather Service meteorologist

Mary Jo Parker, will teach you to become a certified weather spotter. She will explain what conditions need to exist for tornadoes to develop, how to recognize various types of cloud formations, and other conditions that can spawn dangerous weather situations.

This free training is perfect for police, fire, and EMS personnel, school groups, scout troops, 4-H clubs, and anyone interested in weather activity.

For more information or to register, call the Clermont County Emergency Management Agency at (513) 732-7661.

On the Move is a service of the Board of Clermont County Commissioners. For more information about any of the articles included in this publication, contact Kathy Lehr or Rebecca Kimble in the Office of Public Information at (513) 732-7597 or e-mail klehr@co.clermont.oh.us.