



On the Move

a newsletter for citizens
July 2010

www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov

Commissioners: Bob Proud, Scott Crosswell, and Ed Humphrey

Inside this issue:

*New Feature:
Ask the Trooper*
.....page 3

*Get Water/Sewer
Bills E-mailed*
.....page 3

*Successful Home
Remodeling*
.....page 6

Animal Adoptions
.....page 14

Why Give Blood?
.....page 15

Clermont Parks Celebrate 40th Anniversary!

By: Chris Clingman, Park District

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Clermont County Park District. Judge Charles Jackson formed the Park District under Ohio Revised Code 1545 on February 5, 1970. Like many park districts across the state, the Clermont County Park District was formed without any land! It took over a year before Sycamore Park was acquired, with cooperation from the Batavia Rotary Club. This was the first of many partnerships, donations, and philanthropic endeavors that have enabled the Park District to grow over the years, from the original 23 acres of Sycamore Park to over 500 acres today.



Butterflies are plentiful at the 42 acre Kelley Nature Preserve, located at 297 Center Street (SR 126) in Loveland

(continued on page 2)



Remembering the life and service of 20-year-old Army Specialist Jacob Dohrenwend of Milford. He died of non-combat injuries while serving in Iraq.

Clermont Parks Celebrate 40th Anniversary (continued from page 1)

Aletheia Pattison donated the land and the lodge that form Pattison Park. She had inherited the land from her uncle and she used it as a summer residence, staying in the little cabin that is now the Park District's main office. She also formed a trust fund in her will to help with future operations of the Park District.



Aletheia Pattison

Virginia Kelley donated part of the Kelley Nature Preserve in memory of her husband Walter Kelley. The Park District was able to expand the preserve when they purchased the remaining land from her estate using a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant. The preserve provides access to the Little Miami River and beautiful summer wildflower display in the prairie area.

The Hartman Cabin was originally slated to be torn down. But when the owner, CECOS, discovered it was a cabin they reconsidered, helped restore it, and donated it to



Refurbishing the Hartman log cabin

Those are just a few of the people who have supported the parks over the years. I hope that you come out to enjoy the many benefits your parks provide. Whether it is a guided wildflower hike with one of our naturalists, an afternoon of play on one of the playgrounds, or a long hike through one of the nature preserves, the parks provide you with opportunity for fun and wonder. All thanks to the generosity of many people who have supported the parks over the last 40 years.

In 1985, the Park District was able to acquire the Chilo Lock Dam 34 site along the Ohio River from the US Army Corps of Engineers. In 2005, the Park District finished the

renovation of the old power house into a visitor center and museum with a National Scenic Byways grant.



Old Chilo Lock and Dam site

This year, we will be completing the renovation of the boat ramp and installation of boat docks, thanks to grant from ODNR, Division of Watercraft.

Mimi Paul donated a portion of her property along the Ohio River in memory of her husband, Robert, to ODNR, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves.

They entered into a lease management agreement with the Park District to maintain the property as Mimi wanted, a bird sanctuary. To date, the Park District has recorded over 180 species of birds at the Crooked Run Nature Preserve, including nesting Prothonotary Warblers.

the Park District. It is now used for weddings, family reunions, and business meetings throughout the year.

Recently, James and Frances Wilson worked with the Park District to create the James and Frances Wilson Nature Preserve at Sycamore Park. The Wilsons agreed to donate part of the value of their property. The Park District was able to use that donation as the local match to a Clean Ohio Fund Grant to purchase the 105 acre property along the East Fork of the Little Miami River.

Sylvia Shor donated 56 acres of land along Tealtown Road in memory of her husband S. David Shor. Shor Park and Nature Preserve will open later this year thanks to help from the Union Township Trustees. The first phase of the Park District's newest park will offer hiking trails through the fields for you and your dog.



Dedication of the Wilson Nature Preserve

To find out more about the history of your Clermont County Parks watch for the video on the 40 year history of the parks on Clermont County Government TV.

Find out about Park District programs and facilities at www.parks.ClermontCountyOhio.gov or call (513) 732-2977.

Ask the Trooper.....

Is it illegal to operate a motor vehicle barefoot?
Is it illegal to operate a motor vehicle with headphones on or earbuds in your ears?

If you have a question you've always wanted to ask an Ohio State Highway Patrol trooper, but never had the opportunity, now is your chance! Lt. Randy McElfresh, Batavia Post Commander, will answer your questions on upcoming segments on the Clermont County Today program. All citizens



are invited to e-mail their questions to Rebecca Kimble at the Clermont Public Information Office at rkimble@co.clermont.oh.us or call (513) 732-7597. You do not have to give your name.

Clermont County Today airs on Clermont County Government Television (Time Warner Cable access

channel 18) and other cable access channels around Clermont County; the program is also streamed online at www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov.

Save Money..... Save Time..... Go Paperless!

The Clermont County Water Resources Department is offering customers of county water and sewer services an opportunity to go paperless! Beginning in August 2010, citizens can receive their bi-monthly bills electronically. The same information that is available on the bill you currently receive will be available through your e-mail.

To begin receiving an e-bill, Clermont water and sewer customers are encouraged to send an e-mail to WaterSewer@co.clermont.oh.us. To set up your e-bill, you will be asked to provide your name, account number, address, phone number, and e-mail address. During the first few months of this new service, customers will receive both bill versions.

If you do not want to receive the e-bill, no action is necessary.

Did you know.....

When the Declaration of Independence was approved by Congress in 1776, there were an estimated 2.5 million people living in the United States; this July, there are an estimated 309.6 million people that call this country home.

Source:

www.census.gov



Commissioners July Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, July 7	1 p.m.
Wednesday, July 14	1 p.m.
Wednesday, July 21	2 p.m.
Wednesday, July 28	1 p.m.

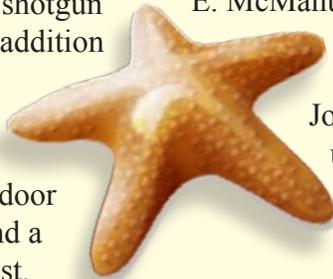
All meetings are held in the third floor session room of the Clermont County Administration Building, located at 101 E. Main Street in Batavia



Annual Starfish Foundation Golf Scramble Benefits Children

By: Wade Grabowski, Facilities Management

The 14th annual Invitational Golf Scramble to benefit The Starfish Foundation will take place on Monday, August 16, 2010 at Elks Run Golf Club, located at 2000 Ellick Road in Batavia with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. In addition to the golf outing, lunch will be provided, and there will be door prizes, a raffle, and a hole-in-one contest.



The Starfish Foundation was formed to make a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children involved with Clermont County Children's Protective Services in memory of the late John E. McManus, who served as the director of the Clermont Department of Job and Family Services until his unexpected death in 1996. Money raised from the annual golf outing is used to benefit Clermont County children by providing items many

take for granted, such as extra eye glasses, graduation expenses, summer camp and sports fees, and other items/services that make life a little more bearable for children already facing difficulties.

If you are interested in participating in the golf outing, or in donating raffle items, contact Wade Grabowski at (513) 732-8850.

Clermont Chamber takes you *Beyond the Names* at July Luncheon

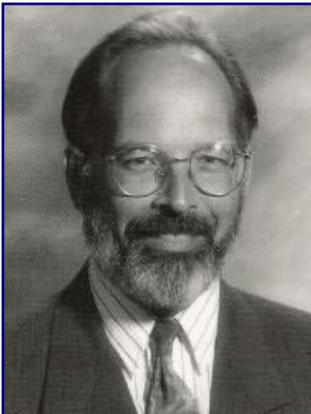
By: Cyn Macke, Clermont Chamber

Local author, historian, and attorney, Gary Knepp was inspired,

when the traveling Vietnam War Memorial came to Clermont County in 2003, to find his own way to honor the men from Clermont County whose names appear on the Wall; the 23 US Army soldiers, ten Marines, one US Navy Corpsman attached to a marine unit, and five US

airmen who died in the Vietnam Theater of Operations from July 24, 1965 to October 3, 1972.

Following his visit to the traveling Vietnam War Memorial, Knepp traveled to Washington DC twice to research the National Archives, traveled twice to Vietnam, and interviewed dozens of people as part



Gary Knepp

of his research for *Beyond the Names*, his tribute book to these 39 men from Clermont County.

Gary Knepp is the featured speaker at the Clermont Chamber of Commerce Monthly Membership Luncheon on July 9, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Receptions Eastgate. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from the author, these poignant, tragic, and reaffirming stories as Knepp shares with us a portrait of these men and the video that he co-produced about Amelia High School graduate Brad Braughton and his inspiring gift.

Luncheon Price for Chamber members is \$25, non-members \$50, and military personnel and veterans are \$15. Register by calling (513) 576-5000 or online at www.ClermontChamber.com.



Did you know.....

John Hancock was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence? And it wasn't until August when the 55 other signers got the chance. The document had to be formally prepared on the nice parchment we have today. Hancock was a very ambitious politician so he signed his name very large on the center of the document, that way everyone else would have to sign around his name in very small print.

Source:

www.cbsnews.com

More Improvements at Clermont County Fairgrounds

Jan Schoellman, Clermont County Fair

The 161st annual Clermont County Fair will be held July 25-31 in Owensville; the theme for the fair is *Celebrate the Past and See the Future*.

The Fair Board works hard to preserve the traditional atmosphere of a county fair. There has always been (and hopefully always will be) livestock exhibits, quilts, flowers, the biggest head of cabbage competition, home baked goods, and canned fruits and vegetables, among others. Merchant's booths, fair food, carnival games and rides are provided along with the traditional tractor pulls, demolition derbies, and musical entertainment. Seeing the accomplishments of 4-H youth, FFA, Boy and Girl Scouts, and American Heritage Girls as they are displayed at the fair, gives us a glimpse of the future, as does the continual improvement of the fairgrounds itself.

One of the goals of the Clermont County Agricultural Society (also known as the Fair Board) is to make your visit to the fair as pleasant as possible. Blacktopping the entire midway (including the ride area) adding an air conditioned multi-purpose building and an air conditioned dining hall, creating new camping facilities, purchasing additional acreage, and the remodeling of the fair board office

are all improvements which have been made in recent years.

For the first time, the Fair Board has made arrangements with Croswell buses and CNE schools to provide shuttle service from the CNE Primary to the walk-in gate every night from 5 p.m. until 11 p.m.

In addition, a major portion of land at the northeast corner of the fairgrounds, which was purchased three years ago, has been graveled, thanks to a massive donation of rock from Arch Materials. The gravel base will enable additional parking, without the risk of getting muddy or stuck, should it rain (as it usually does sometime during fair week).

Once you arrive at the fairgrounds you will notice a brand new horse barn. Three years ago, a group of Clermont County citizens formed a committee which they called Friends of the Fair. Their purpose was to become a 501-(C)(3) charity and raise money to make improvements on the fairgrounds. In the last three years, they have sold thousands of pork tenderloin sandwiches at the fair, held numerous raffles, held two successful spring benefit dinners and dances and sponsored a fall Casino Night. With the Fair Board's support and encouragement, this hard working group has raised enough money to erect a new 60 x 120

horse barn, large enough to hold over 40 stalls. The Junior Fair horse program had grown so much that there was not enough housing for all of the horse projects. The youth either had to take their horses home each night or keep them under a tent which the Senior Fair Board rented each year for that purpose.

The committee has already started exploring possibilities for their next major project. They meet on the second Tuesday of each month at the fairgrounds at 7 p.m.; new members are welcome! For more information visit the Web site www.ClermontCountyFair.org.



Clermont County Permit Central NEWS

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

Successful Home Remodeling Projects

As spring passes and summer arrives, many home owners grow eager to start remodeling projects to update and refresh their surroundings. Before getting started, it's a good idea to hire a reputable remodeler/contractor to help identify a workable construction plan to ensure better results at the completion of the project. Here are five tips for planning a successful home remodel that you can enjoy for many years to come.

1. **Compile a list of home remodeling ideas and draft a budget for the work.**

You likely have some projects in mind, such as modernizing the bathroom, renovating the kitchen, replacing windows or repairing the roof. Prioritize your wish list: Maybe you don't have the budget for your dream remodel, but professional remodelers can maximize your dollars by doing the work in phases, suggesting budget-friendly products and materials, and implementing creative design solutions.

2. **Look for a professional remodeler to help plan the project.**

You can search the Clermont County phone book for listed contractors or remodelers, or there is the NAHB's Directory of Professional Remodelers at www.nahb.org. You'll get a list

of nearby remodelers to contact. Also, asking friends and neighbors for names of qualified remodelers will also help you find a match for your project. The Building Department, for obvious reasons, does not recommend one contractor over another.

3. **Check the references and background of the remodeler.**

After you start speaking with remodelers and find one or two who match your project's needs, be sure to conduct some background research by checking with the Better Business Bureau, talking to their references, and asking if they are a trade association member. Remodelers with these qualities tend to be more reliable, better educated, and more likely to stay on top of construction and design trends.

4. **Agree on a contract.**

Talk over the details of the home remodeling project and begin reviewing the contract. You'll want to check the remodelers' insurance coverage, ask about any warranties on their work, know who is responsible for obtaining any building permits, and understand the process for making any change orders after the contract is signed. Make sure that you and your remodeler see eye to eye before you sign on the dotted line.

By: Sharman Hensley, Permit Central

5. **Take advantage of the energy efficiency tax credits.**

If your remodel includes replacing windows or doors, adding insulation, installing new roofing, upgrading heating or air-conditioning units, updating the water heater, or installing energy generating products (such as solar panels, heat pumps, or wind turbines) then you can take advantage of federal energy efficiency tax credits through 2010 that will help defray costs and maximize your remodeling budget while reducing home energy bills.



Be sure to obtain your building and local zoning permits before starting your remodeling project and a Certificate of Completion before occupying the newly renovated area from the county before you consider the project complete and pay your contractor. You can contact the Permit Specialist at Clermont County's Permit Central for more information at (513) 732-7213.

Permit Central News

CDBG Revitalization Program

By: Jim Taylor, Community Planning and Development

The Board of County Commissioners recently submitted an application to the Community Development Block Grant Neighborhood Revitalization Program to assist in the engineering for a wastewater system for the village of Newtonsville. This is the first step in many to place a sanitary sewer system and plant in Newtonsville.

All of the homes in the village have onsite septic systems, most of which are not functioning properly. Instead of making the village residents install costly onsite systems, the Commissioners are working toward installing this sewage collection and treatment system. The Commissioners have obligated several programs for the upcoming years to provide for this system.

The whole village will have sewers and all the sewage will



travel to a small plant for treatment. The small plant will be located in a manner that is not offensive and not infringing on private property. The lines will be placed in a manner that allows the quickest and easiest collection without causing any travel time problems.

This work will be planned as

to create as little a problem as possible to road closures and damages. Sidewalks will come under the same constraints. This will be a three year process including engineering and construction. Residents are asked to be patient with the process of construction.

May Home Sales Up in Clermont and Surrounding Counties

According to the Multiple Listing Service of Greater Cincinnati, sales of existing homes were up during May in Southwest Ohio, when compared to the same month last year. Prices were also up a bit.

Across Southwest Ohio, existing home sales were up 25.4

percent between May 2009 and May 2010; the median price for a house was up 1.2 percent during that timeframe, from \$125,326 to \$131,500.



Monitoring Your Speed

By: Chief Deputy Rick Combs, Clermont Sheriff's Office

The Ohio Supreme Court recently issued a decision which has stirred the feelings of many Ohioans.

A Barberton Police officer cited an individual for speeding on July 3, 2008, after visually estimating his speed at 70 MPH in a 60 MPH zone. Moments later the officer checked the speed again with a radar unit which read 83 MPH (not reported by the media yet in the decision). The officer cited the driver for 79 MPH in a 60 MPH zone, which allowed the driver to avoid a court appearance which is mandatory for speeds greater than 20 MPH above the posted speed limit.

Through the appeals process, the case made it to the Ohio Supreme Court. The court ruled 5-1 that it was appropriate and legal for a police officer to issue a citation for speeding based solely upon the officer's own observation without independent verification from radar, laser, or other speed measuring device. Most laws do not include requirements or standards for specific pieces of proof, since the list could go on for volumes and you always leave something out when working with lists.

The court consider the officer's 13 years of service, training, certification as a police officer, including his testimony,



and determined the officer was qualified to sufficiently estimate the speed of a vehicle without the use of a speed measuring device.

In researching this commentary, we checked with judges hearing these types of cases in Clermont County, only one case came to mind where an officer's estimate of speed was filed using the officer's visual observation only. Hamilton County Judge Brad Greenberg recently stated that 99.9 percent of speeding charges have sufficient supporting documentation. Two Ohio state representatives are sponsoring a bill disallowing law enforcement from citing an individual for speeding without independent verification. Is it really necessary to pass another law geared only to regulate an occasional situation? In most cases (new) laws create extreme expense for tax payers and unforeseen consequences. It is common practice in the law enforcement community and among all the officers I know to use visual estimates, only in cases of serious circumstance where the public is placed in extreme danger - traveling at high speed in a school zone, operating a vehicle while intoxicated, driving with a suspended license, or some other egregious violation. The Sheriff's own policy discourages citations without a secondary device, unless the violation creates a clear and present public safety concern and only after approval from a supervisor.



olators have the option to take the matter to court where a judge will weigh all the circumstances, facts, and evidence prior to making a decision. I do not believe for one moment that the

majority of our citizens believe officers need additional documentation or verification in every action they take. Imagine the cost to taxpayers to equip every officer with remote cameras, audio devices, GPS, and all the other electronic devices available today to support the creditability of a law enforcement officer.

If required for law enforcement wouldn't the "burden of proof" also apply to a citizen wishing to file a private complaint against a neighbor? I think so.

In this matter, the Ohio Supreme Court supported the discretion of law enforcement officers, who are credible, experienced, and properly trained to take action without verification from a speed monitoring device in these rare and infrequent charges. It further underscores the necessity for officers to remain creditable, honest, with a high degree of integrity.



Around the County.....

At the annual Memorial Day Parade in Batavia, Clermont Commissioner Bob Proud paused for a picture with Robin Taylor, Morgan Shelton, and Jackson (the dog)



Clermont Commissioner Ed Humphrey waves to the crowd during the annual Frontiers Day parade in Milford

Commissioner Croswell and Commissioner Proud compete in lawnmower racing at the Milford Frontier Days celebration



Clermont Sheriff A.J. "Tim" Rodenberg and his wife Kathy enjoy the Frontiers Day parade in Milford



Photo courtesy of Kelli Geist, Community Press

Clermont Park Events

By: Keith Robinson, Park District

Kids Crafts: Tree ID Guide

Thursday, July 8 • 11 a.m. • Pattison Park
The Clermont County Parks are home to dozens of varieties of tree species. Gather leaves and create your own field guide to make identifying them as easy as can be. Preregistration is required. Program requires a fee of \$2 per child. Call (513) 876-9013 to sign up.



Butterfly Walk

Saturday, July 10 • 1 p.m. • Chilo Lock #34 Park
Meet at the visitor center
Saturday, July 17 • 1 p.m. • Kelley Nature Preserve



Meet at the information kiosk, then tour the meadows of Chilo Lock #34 Park and Kelley Nature Preserve on a quest to find butterflies and summer wildflowers. Bring your own butterfly net if you have one and be ready to run.

Beavers

Sunday, July 18 • 1 p.m. • Crooked Run Nature Preserve
Beavers are one of our most unique mammals, but believe it or not they haven't always been here. Discover how these animals, once gone from Ohio, have made an amazing comeback and are now abundant in our rivers and streams. We'll hike through the nature preserve in search of these secretive animals and the clues they leave behind. Meet at the visitor center.



Did you know...

Last year, over 125,000 American flags were flown over the U.S. Capitol, at the request of House and Senate members. On July 4 alone, 1,200 were flown over Washington, D.C. Source: www.capitolflags.gov.



Check us Out!

Want to know more about events in Clermont County? Become a friend of Clermont County by visiting our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ClermontCounty. You can also check out updated videos of people, places, and programs in the county by visiting the county YouTube site at www.youtube.com/clermontcounty.

River Sweep Re-Scheduled

Bad weather forced the postponement of the annual River Sweep; it's now set for Saturday, July 10, from 9 a.m. until noon.

There are four staging area's in Clermont County: Chilo Lock #34 Park, Indian Mound campground in Neville, Riverfront Park in Moscow, and the Riverfront Bandstand in New Richmond.

For more information, contact Clermont Clean and Green program coordinator Becky Ploucha at (513) 753-9222.

Hands Up! Puppet Troupe Performance

Friday, July 23, 2 p.m. – Batavia Branch

Join us for a special performance by the Hands Up! Puppet Troupe; the kids will love watching Walking Through the Seasons with Sheep and Sheldon, a one of a kind show filled with music and laughter for all ages. For more information or to register, call (513) 732-2128.



Wii Got Game!

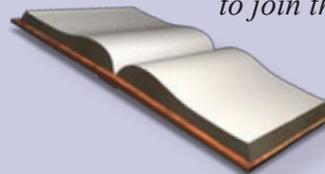
Tuesday, July 13, noon and
Wednesday, July 14, 11 a.m.
Felicity Branch

All ages are invited to stop in to the library, cool off, and play Wii games. For more information, call (513) 876-4134.

Twilight Celebration

Friday, July 16, 6 p.m. – Goshen Branch

Join us for a Twilight Party with trivia, refreshments, and door prizes. Wear your old clothes and bring a black cotton t-shirt to decorate during the party. For more information or to register, call (513) 722-1221.



Mystery Book Club

Thursday, July 15, 12:30 p.m.
Milford Miami-Township
Branch

All interested adults are invited to join the Mystery Book Club.

This month's title will be The Assassin's Touch by Laura Joh Rowland. Bring a bag lunch. For more information, call (513) 248-0700.

Creative Writing Group

Thursdays in July, 11 a.m. – Williamsburg Branch

Adults are welcome to join the creative writing group to inspire each other, offer suggestions, and serve as a sounding board to each other. For more information, call (513) 724-1070.

Family Fun: Boats

Saturday, July 10, 11 a.m. – Bethel Branch

Families are invited to spend an hour at the library enjoying stories and constructing a boat to take home. For more information or to register, call (513) 734-2619.



Explorer's Club

Tuesdays, July 13, 20, and 27, and August 3, 1 p.m. – Amelia Branch

Elementary school age children are invited to join the Explorer's Club for science experiments, crafts, activities, and refreshments. For more information or to register, call (513) 752-5580.

Computer Instruction for Adults

During the month of July by appointment – New Richmond Branch

Get one-on-one computer instruction and learn the basics. Create an e-mail and Facebook account, and learn how to use



Microsoft Word. To schedule an appointment, call (513) 553-0570.



Animals Currently Available for Adoption

call 732-8854 for
adoption information



Lightening



Miley



Maddie



Timber



Silver



Thunder

Keep Your Pet Safe This Summer

Made in the Shade

Pets can get dehydrated quickly, so give them plenty of fresh, clean water when it's hot outdoors. Make sure your pets have a shady place to get out of the sun, be careful to not over-exercise them, and keep them indoors when it's extremely hot.

No Parking!

Never leave your animals alone in a parked vehicle. "On a hot day, a parked car can become a furnace in no time—even with the windows open—which could lead to fatal heat stroke," says Dr. Louise Murray, Director of Medicine at ASPCA Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital. Also, leaving pets unattended in

cars in extreme weather is illegal in several states.

Street Smarts

When the temperature is very high, don't let your dog linger on hot asphalt. Being so close the ground, your pooch's body can heat up quickly, and sensitive paw pads can burn. Keep walks during these times to a minimum.

Summer Style

Giving your dog a lightweight

summer haircut helps prevent overheating. Shave down to a one-inch length,

never to the skin, so your dog still has some protection from the sun.

Brushing cats more often than usual can prevent problems caused by excessive heat. As far as skin care, be sure that any sunscreen or insect repellent product you use on your pets is labeled specifically for use on animals.



Donate Blood.....Save Lives

Clermont County Sheriff A.J. "Tim" Rodenberg, Commissioner Bob Proud, and County Administrator Dave Spinney were among the many that rolled up their sleeves and donated blood at a June blood drive at the Sheriff's Office in Batavia.

Why do it? Consider, one blood donation can help save the lives of three people. Also, according to the American Red Cross, if you begin donating blood at the age of 17 and donate every 56 days until you are 76, you could potentially help save the lives of 1,000 people!

The Red Cross estimates that more than 38,000 blood donations are needed each and every day; the most requested type of blood used at hospitals is Type O. Blood cannot be manufactured, it mostly comes from donors. A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 pints of blood. Donating blood is a safe process that begins with registration, then a mini physical is given, and a medical history is taken. After donating blood (a process that takes 10-12 minutes) you will be offered refreshments. A sterile needle is used only once for each donor and then discarded.



All donated blood is tested for HIV, hepatitis B and C, syphilis, and other infectious diseases, before it can be released to hospitals. All information given during the donation process is confidential and may not be released without your permission (except as directed by law.)

For more information about the blood donation process visit the Web site www.RedCross-Blood.org or call (800)GIVE-LIFE.

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Clermont Commissioner Bob Proud



Clermont Sheriff A.J. "Tim" Rodenberg



Clermont Administrator Dave Spinney

Give the gift that costs nothing to give.....



Give blood !

A Clermont Cottage Story

By: Leslie Huggard, Grant Birthplace Volunteer.

On bright summer weekends the southern road into East Fork State Park from SR 125 near Bantam is crowded with families, cyclists, and fishermen hurrying to the beach, boat docks, and picnic areas. Impatient to be there, few notice the small simple white church, sited a little above the road resting in the shade of a venerable tree. The Old Bethel Methodist Church has been there for almost two hundred years, insulated from time by the surrounding woods. A quiet resting place for those who centuries ago had ventured into a new unbroken land, tamed it and later fought and died in its early struggles for freedom and equality.

To the rear of the church near the boundary trees, a short row of weathered tombstones commemorate one of the earliest families buried there: "John Simpson, 1767 to 1837". When he was laid to rest so long ago, the church still looked new, and the churchyard had level green grass. Amongst the Simpson and Grant mourners may have been a 15-year-old teenager and grandson, Hiram Ulysses Grant. He might have thought seriously for the first time about the value of life and what he would do in the unknown and exciting future ahead.

Grandfather Simpson was the first of his family to have been born in North America. He must have told interesting and

unusual stories about his own father John, after whom he was named.

John had sailed from Ireland as an adventurous young lad of 22 in 1760 to settle on the then wild frontier of Pennsylvania. What glittering vision of the future overcame the risks of sailing the Atlantic to take him from parents and friends almost certainly forever? Maybe he hoped luck would augment self-assurance, and in time he might return home if just for one visit with a solid gold watch and chain in the waistcoat of a stylishly tailored suit.

Memories slowly faded of the hard times he had left behind in Ireland, civil unrest, religious discrimination, and the awful years of endless rain, crop failures, and hunger. He married, a son John was born. Longed for letters came, as he read he tried to describe to young John a little of his own parents and the small cottage, the simple furnishings, which had been the home he left behind. It was hard without pictures to explain the mud walls, the thatched roof, and the glowing comfort of a turf fire so far away. In time the letters came less frequently, then ceased.

Young John grew up, moved to new prospects in Ohio, married and had a daughter, Hannah. The family prospered in a comfortable home near Bethel. His father died, the Irish accent the last echo of a different past was silent.

Hannah Simpson grew up, fell in love and married a neighbor boy Jesse Grant. They set up house in a small one-room cottage at Point Pleasant, within a stones' throw of the Ohio River, still there today. Had her grandfather walked in the door



The Grant birthplace in Point Pleasant, Ohio

so much looked the same, he would have thought himself at last back in Ireland. In it Hiram Ulysses was born.

Hiram Ulysses entered West Point where he changed his name to Ulysses Simpson Grant. After a life great-grandfather John Simpson might never have envisioned, he decided to start retirement with a world tour. He arrived in Ireland and was given a civic reception and banquet in Londonderry, a city in the north of the country possibly the port of emigration of his forbear. After the speeches and celebrations, a young Lieutenant Grant with curiosity and old family memories still fresh in his mind, who had excelled at horsemanship as a youth, might have jumped on a horse and ridden the 50 miles to his great-grandfather's cottage at Dergenagh. But General Grant, replete with Irish hospitality, heavy with civil and military honors and perhaps a gold watch in his waistcoat pocket, went back to his hotel for the night and by train south to Belfast next morning.

Baked Garden Zucchini

Serves 6

Ingredients:

- 2 or 3 medium zucchini, sliced (about 8 cups)
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 onions, sliced
- 2 eggs
- ¼ cup seasoned bread crumbs
- 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 14.5 ounce can diced tomatoes
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese (8 ounces)
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese

Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 325°F. Grease a large casserole or 9x13-inch pan; set aside.
2. Wash zucchini and discard ends. Cut into slices (about 8 cups). If using large zucchini, cut in half lengthwise and remove seeds before slicing.
3. Heat oil in large skillet over medium heat. Add zucchini and onion slices and cook for 10 minutes. Remove from heat.
4. In bowl, stir together the eggs, bread crumbs, Italian seasoning, and pepper. Add undrained tomatoes, and cheeses.
5. Pour into casserole. Bake uncovered for 60 minutes. Top will be golden brown.
6. Cut into squares and serve.

NUTRITION FACTS PER SERVING: 210 calories, 10g total fat (4g saturated fat), 90 calories from fat, 12g protein, 22g carbohydrates, 85mg cholesterol, 4g dietary fiber, 650mg sodium



Margaret Jenkins
OSU Extension - Clermont

Variations:

Try using less cheese to lower the calories, fat, and sodium in this dish.

Substitute some of the zucchini with fresh mushrooms or peppers.

This newsletter is a service of the Board of Clermont County Commissioners. For more information about the articles featured, contact Clermont County Communications Director Kathy Lehr at (513) 732-7597 or e-mail klehr@co.clermont.oh.us.