



On the Move

a newsletter for citizens
June 2011

www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov

Commissioners: Bob Proud, Ed Humphrey, and Archie Wilson

EARTHQUAKE

How would Clermont County respond to an earthquake that rattles the New Madrid seismic zone? On Tuesday, May 17, 2011, over 40 representatives from emergency response agencies across the county gathered at the Clermont County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Batavia, to take part in a day-long earthquake exercise called Shaken Horizon '11. This exercise was also played out in Hamilton, Butler, Warren, and Scioto counties, with coordination from the state Emergency Management Agency (EMA).

The exercise focused on local and regional recovery, in the

aftermath of two earthquakes registering 7.7 and 5.7 on the Richter scale, with aftershocks causing further problems. "The type of partnerships we have forged with this type of drill can be help the community deal with any type of hazardous situa-

tion," said Clermont EMA Director Beth Nevel. "The welfare of our citizens is the number one priority, as the agencies representing law enforcement, communications, health care, and transportation work collectively in identifying, assessing, prioritizing, and restoring critical infrastructure in the aftermath of an earthquake."

"This type of an exercise allows emergency response agencies to work together and share information in a seamless pattern," added Board of Clermont County Commissioners President Ed Humphrey, who participated in the exercise.



Clermont Office of Technology, Communications, and Security Director Steve Rabolt (in red vest) works with participants during the Shaken Horizons '11 exercise.

Nevel said analysis of the 18-hour Clermont County exercise will enable the county to do a better job in responding to disasters. "By taking part in these types of exercises, we are better able to determine what resources are available in the county and the region, to provide a quicker response to disasters." She encouraged each home and business to have a shelter-in-place kit handy containing enough food, water, and supplies to last each person at least three days. For more information in assembling a shelter in place kit, visit the website www.ready.gov.

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Scenes from Shaken Horizons Exercise

May 17, 2011



Clermont EMA Director Beth Nevel



Lyle Bloom (Engineer's Office) and Bob Sander (Human Resources) input information



Commander of the Ohio State Highway Patrol-Batavia post Lt. Randy McElfresh



Clermont 9-1-1 dispatcher Mabel Sheppard



Milford Police Captain Jamie Mills

Board of Commissioners June Sessions

<i>Wednesday, June 1</i>	<i>Regular Session</i>	<i>10 a.m.</i>
<i>Wednesday, June 8</i>	<i>Regular Session</i>	<i>10 a.m.</i>
<i>Tuesday, June 14</i>	<i>Regular Session</i>	<i>10 a.m.</i>
<i>Wednesday, June 22</i>	<i>Regular Session</i>	<i>10 a.m.</i>
<i>Wednesday, June 29</i>	<i>Regular Session</i>	<i>10 a.m.</i>

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

The 2010 Annual Clermont County Citizens' Report is now available online at www.clermontcountyohio.gov, then click on 2010 Annual Citizens' Report.



Community Agency Collaboration Keeps Amelia Village Seniors Safer

By: Denise Franer, General Health District

The Amelia Police Department Safer Senior program is partnering with the Clermont County General Health District Senior Safety Program to offer free home safety checks, home safety aids, and prescription medication lock boxes to Amelia Village seniors.



The Amelia Safer Senior program is a voluntary program that partners the Amelia Police Department with the senior residents in the village. The program allows the senior to sign up for a weekly check-in by the police officers. Currently, over 30 senior residents are registered for the program throughout the village. The police officer will either contact the senior by telephone or make an in-house visit. As part of the Amelia Safer Senior program each senior resident is provided a free packet of materials that includes information about the Amelia Police Department, crime prevention, Clermont Senior Services, and

Amelia Police Officer Keith Mahan visits with Frank Snow at his Amelia home.

health related safety information.

The Amelia Police Department takes a front line role in obtaining necessary assistance for the senior. This includes meeting with local service providers and making referrals to other agencies to obtain the assistance requested by the senior.

As part of the educational component of the home visit, seniors are strongly encouraged to lock up their prescription medications, especially pain and anxiety medications and sleeping pills. These medica-

tions are sometimes stolen from seniors and sold on the street. Information about how to safely dispose of these medications when they are no longer needed is also provided.

The Amelia Safer Senior program also offers free home safety checks for seniors to identify and reduce fall and fire risks.

The Clermont County General Health District Senior Safety provides home safety aids such as flashlights, nightlights and grab bars when the need for them is identified by the officer during the home safety check.

For more information on the Amelia Safer Senior program, call the Amelia Police Department at (513) 753-4747. For more information about the Clermont General Health District Senior Safety Program, call (513) 735-8421.

Why it takes so long to get a doctor's appointment...

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, there were 1.2 billion visits to physician offices, hospital emergency rooms, and outpatient services in the United States during 2007. That is a rate

of 405 visits per 100 people each year! About one-half of ambulatory medical care visits (48.1 percent) were made to primary care physicians in office-based practices. The rest were to medi-

cal specialists (18.4 percent) and surgical specialists (16.4 percent) in office-based practices.



Congratulations Ben!

The Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) has presented Clermont Transportation Connection (CTC) Director Ben Capelle with a Regional Public Service Award for outstanding public service.



Capelle was one of five recognized during ceremonies May 5, 2011 on Fountain Square during Public Service Recognition Week.

CTC Director Ben Capelle



July Dedication at Veterans' Park in Miami Township

A Veterans' Muster will be held on Saturday, July 2, 2011, as part of dedication ceremonies for two portions of the 8 ½ acre Spirit of 76 Memorial Gardens and Arboretum under construction at Miami Meadows Park, located off SR 131 in Miami Township. "The muster will run from noon until dusk and will be a tribute to all those who have served," said Bill Knepp. Along with fellow Korean War veterans R.J. Vilardo and Robert Sterling, Knepp is part of the founders of Korean War Veterans 1950-1953 United, a group

that has put together the framework for the memorial and gardens to honor all veterans, from conflicts dating back to the Revolutionary War.

On July 2, Knepp said the Freedom Fountain at Lake Liberty will be dedicated in tribute to Corporal Guy Lykins, a local Korean War veteran. A World War II Flag Center near the entrance to the memorial park will also be dedicated in honor of recently deceased Clermont County WWII veteran Sgt. Milt



Bill Knepp at Lake Liberty

Rooms. "We will have a 21 gun salute for Milt," said Knepp. "The Veterans' Muster will also include a tribute to those listed as Missing In Action, and a Korean War vet will be here to distribute gold medals to other veterans of that conflict."

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www.facebook.com/ClermontCounty



Happy FATHER'S DAY

June 19, 2011

Clermont Seniors Offered Tasty Alternatives

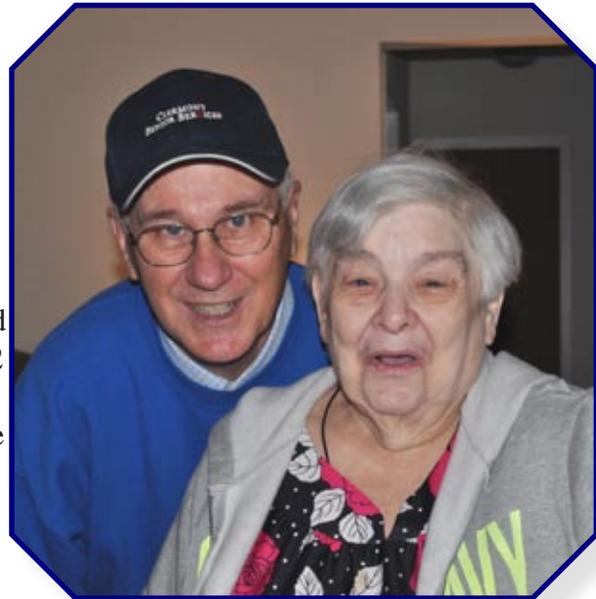
The 350 older adults, who receive meals from Clermont Senior Services, are now getting a choice. “We are rolling out Savory Selects meals to our customers,” said Clermont Senior Services Chief Operating Officer Cindy Gramke. “There are 31 entrée choices that are available; we now offer everything from vegetarian meals to meatloaf, Baja chicken, and steak hoagies. Not only is this providing seniors with a choice, it also provides us with a cost effective way to deliver meals.” Most customers place an order, and then receive a week’s worth of meals that can be warmed in a microwave oven, when needed.

The food deliveries provide a nutritious, weekday meal to home-bound seniors. To be eligible for the meals, customers must be

60 or older, a resident of Clermont County, and unable to safely prepare a meal on their own. The suggested donation is \$2 a meal; financial assistance is available.

“Our customers are really excited about having meal options, rather than having a

pre-set meal delivered that they might not like,” said Gramke. She said the deliveries also include snacks, desserts, drinks, and condiments.



Clermont Seniors driver Phil Stovall recently delivered Savory Selects meals to Marlene in her Union Township home

Call Clermont Senior Services at (513) 724-1255 for more information about the Savory Selects home-delivered meals.

Meet Mox! New Sheriff’s Office Dog Plans to Take Bite Out of Crime

“I share a bond with Mox; he is like a best friend to me,” said Clermont County Sheriff’s Office Deputy Adam Bailey, while undergoing a weekly training session with the newest four-legged member of the local force. Mox is a black, 2-year-old German shepherd from Holland; he is Deputy Bailey’s constant companion on and off the job. “He is one of the most visible tools we have. He is very good at what he does,” said Deputy Bailey, adding that Mox is invaluable when searching for criminals, missing individuals, or sniffing out illegal drugs.



Volunteers Needed for Annual Ohio River Sweep

On Saturday, June 18, 2011, local volunteers are needed to join the thousands of people who will clean up the banks of the Ohio River. This is an excellent opportunity for citizens to play an active role in improving the environment.

Throughout the years, this nationally recognized event sponsored by ORSANCO has grown into one of the largest cleanup efforts of its kind; encompassing 3,000 miles of shoreline from Pittsburgh, PA to Cairo, IL. Over the years, improved water quality has increased recreational use of the Ohio River and its tributaries. This increase in rec-

reation produces more litter on the river banks, making a yearly cleanup vital.

In Clermont County, there will be clean-ups in Moscow, New Richmond, Neville (at both the boat ramp and Indian Mound Campground), and at the Crooked Run Nature Preserve in Chilo. Free t-shirts will be available to volunteers while supplies last. Lunch and refreshments will be provided at most locations.

"The River Sweep is a great opportunity for citizens to get involved and clean up the

Ohio River, which is such an important resource for Clermont County residents," said Becky Ploucha, Clean and Green Coordinator for Clermont 20/20.



For more information about River Sweep in Clermont County, people should contact Ploucha at (513) 753-9222 or by email at cleanandgreen@clermont2020.org. For information on Ohio River Sweep sites outside Clermont County, call the River Sweep Hotline at (800) 359-3977 or visit www.orsanco.org/riversweep.



The annual Clermont County Fair will be held July 24-30, 2011 in Owensville. For more information visit the website www.ClermontCountyFair.org.

Check out the historical fashions on display at Promont House Museum in Milford. Visit the website www.MilfordHistory.net.



Clermont Welcomes National Underground Railroad Conference in June

Community researchers, historians, scholars, community members, and Underground Railroad enthusiasts from across the nation, will gather in Clermont County for the annual National Underground Railroad Conference in June. This year's theme is *Pathways to Freedom: Presenting the Underground Railroad through Education, Interpretation, and Heritage Tourism*. The four-day conference will be held June 15-18, 2011, and will be headquartered at the Holiday Inn and Suites-Eastgate, located at 4501 Eastgate Boulevard in Union Township.

"Clermont County is a perfect place for an Underground Railroad Conference," said local historian Gary Knepp. "The county has 19 sites that have been accepted into the National Park Service Underground

Network to Freedom Program, the most in the nation."

This year's National Underground Railroad Conference will explore modern efforts to disseminate the inspiring history of the Underground Railroad, looking at ways scholars, sites stewards, educators, and others balance the need for accuracy, authenticity, and respect with telling an engaging story of the quest for freedom. The conference will include nationally-known speakers and workshops; two pre-conference workshops for educators will be held at UC Clermont and will offer continuing education credits. Three regional tours of museums and historic sites are also available.



The annual conference is sponsored by the National Park Service, National Underground Railroad, Network to Freedom Program (NTF), working in partnership with the Clermont County Convention and Visitors Bureau. For more information or to register, visit the website www.ugrconference.com or call Diane Miller with the National Park Service at (402) 661-1588.



Father's Day is the fifth most popular card-sending holiday, with an estimated \$100 million in card sales. Husbands, grandfathers, uncles, sons and sons-in-law are honored as well as father.

Source: www.theHolidaySpot.com

Clermont County is on You Tube!

check us out at www.youtube.com/clermontcounty

1st Annual Clermont County Fair Run/Walk 2011

Saturday, July 23, 2011
Gauche Park in Owensville, Ohio

Registration begins at 7:30 am
Run/Walk Starts at 8:00 am

Register online at
www.clermonthhealthdistrict.org
or call the Health District at 513-732-7491

**1st 100 participants to register and complete
the run/walk will get a
FREE T-shirt and a FREE Pass to the Clermont
County Fair!!**

**The Family Fun 1 is a FREE 1 Mile Run/Walk
promoting physical activity as a fun family
activity, local parks as great places for healthy
activities, and to encourage people to check out
the wonderful county fair.**

Organized by the Clermont County Health District and
Clermont CAN (Coalition for Activity and Nutrition)



Family Fun
one



1st Annual Clermont County Fair Run/Walk

Motorcycle Safety

By: Lt. Randy McElfresh, OSHP-Batavia Commander

From 2008 to 2010 motorcycle-involved crashes resulted in a total of 542 fatalities and over 11,400 injuries in the state of Ohio. Of the 542 fatalities, the motorcyclist was at fault 68 percent of the time. Taking precaution as a motorcycle rider can help protect yourself and others from injury or even death.

It is very important for anyone considering motorcycling to receive the proper training and licensing before heading out on the road.

Out of the 8,675 citations the Patrol handed out in 2008 – 2010 to motorcyclists, 20 percent were for operating a motorcycle without a proper license or endorsement. As a rider, simple things like ensuring you have a valid motorcycle endorsement, receiving quality motorcycle training and wearing proper safety equipment can be key elements in staying safe.

Riding sober is also very important. Last year 39 percent of the fatal motorcycle crashes involved an impaired motorcyclist. Of course, motorcycle safety is not solely

the responsibility of motorcyclists. Motor vehicle drivers share in this important effort, it is very important for motor vehicle drivers being aware of motorcyclists.

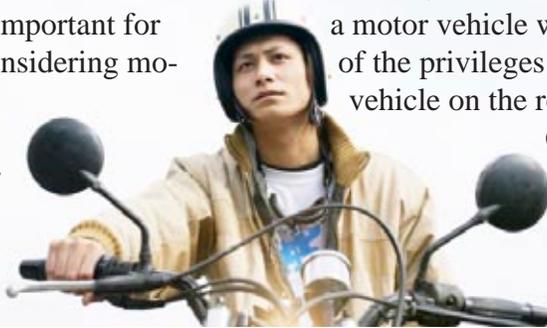
To that end, as a motorist or a passenger, there are some important steps to become more aware of motorcyclists.

Remember, a motorcycle is a motor vehicle with all of the privileges of any vehicle on the roadway.

Give motorcyclists a full lane of travel.

Look for

motorcyclists on the highway, at intersections, when a motorcyclist may be making a left turn, and when a motorcyclist may be changing lanes. Allow plenty of space in front of the vehicle you are driving, and do not follow a motorcycle too closely.



Inclusive Playground Considered at Shor Park

The Clermont County Park Board, in cooperation with Clermont County Developmental Disabilities, will hold a public forum on Tuesday, June 7, 2011, designed to gather citizen input on a proposed handicapped accessible playground for Shor Park in Union Township. The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at the Pattison Park Lodge, located at 2228 US 50 near Owensville. “We’ve had a number of people say that this type of inclusive playground would be a great opportunity for their children and grandchildren to be able to enjoy the outdoors,” said Clermont Parks Director Chris Clingman. “It could be used by all children.”

Handicapped accessible playgrounds often include low level monkey bars, so that children in wheelchairs can reach them. Playground swings are often high-backed and include a safety harness to provide support to special needs children.

For more information about the public forum, contact Clermont Parks Director Chris Clingman at (513) 732-2977.



Clermont Park Events

By: Keith Robinson, Park District

Preschool Story Time

Wednesday, June 8, 1:30 pm - Sycamore Park

Bring your preschooler for a special program in the park. Enjoy stories, crafts and hikes with Naturalist Laura and Angie from the Batavia branch library. Each month features a new topic. June's topic will be bugs.

Clermont County Butterfly Count

Saturday, June 11 9 a.m. - Shor Park, Pattison Park, Sycamore Park

Join the first annual East Fork/ Clermont County Butterfly Count. All participants will begin at the Army Corps of Engineers Visitor Center in East Fork State Park. From there, groups will visit various locations around the county to conduct butterfly counts; each group will be led by a veteran butterflyer. No experience is necessary. Call (513) 876-9013 for more information or to sign up.

*There is a \$3.00 participation fee charged by the North American Butterfly Association to help defray costs associated with coordinating nation-wide counts.



flowers are blooming and what birds are singing along the way. Meet at the Little Miami River Scenic Trail Center in Nisbet Park in downtown Loveland.

Long Term Butterfly Monitoring

Weekly in June, July, and August - Chilo Lock #34 Park and Crooked Run

Nature Preserve
Anyone with an interest in butterflies is welcome to join this citizen scientist project. A weekly walk gathers data on local butterflies; all ages and experience levels are welcome. Contact Laura at lhoople@co.clermont.oh.us or (513) 876-9013 for more information.

Ohio River Sweep

Saturday, June 18, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. - Chilo Lock #34 Park

Join thousands of volunteers in the annual effort to clean up the banks of the 981 mile long Ohio River. Volunteers will receive a free t shirt and lunch following the clean up. To register at Chilo Lock #34 Park please call (513) 876-9013. If you would like to volunteer at another location in Clermont County please contact Clermont 20/20 at (513) 753-9222.

Illuminating Insects

Friday June 24, 9 a.m. - Pattison Park

Join the naturalist as we explore the fascinating world of fireflies. Discover how and why these small beetles flash during early summer evenings. Then we'll search the park for these illuminating insects that have captured the curiosity of generations of children. Meet at the picnic shelter and bring a jar or container to keep the bugs that we catch. All lightning bugs will be released after the program.



Scenic River Hike

Sunday, June 26, 1 p.m. - Little Miami River Scenic Trail Center

Meet at the Little Miami River Scenic Trail Center for a naturalist guided hike along the state and national scenic Little Miami River. We'll see what



One World, Many Cultures

Saturday, June 18, 2 p.m. – Amelia Branch

We welcome the Cincinnati Museum Center for One World, Many Cultures! Participants in grades 1 – 4 will explore different cultures and continents using maps, clothing, crafts, games, music, and more! For more information or to register, call (513) 752-5580.

Knights and Blacksmiths

Saturday, June 11, 1 – 3 p.m., Milford-Miami Twp. Branch

Medieval armor made by local blacksmith David Glier will be on display for Knights and Blacksmiths: Arms, Beautiful Ironwork from the Middle Ages presentation. Participants ages 8-18 may join in the fun and make a miniature Medieval catapult and compete to win a prize. For more information or to register, call (513) 248-0700.



Underground Railroad

Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m. – New Richmond Branch

Join Historic New Richmond for a brief overview of New Richmond's history with the Underground Railroad and sites to visit in the village. For more information or to register, call (513) 553-0570.

Summer Craft Days

Wednesdays, June 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2 p.m. – Felicity Branch

Participants ages 5 and up can visit the library to work on summer reading and make a craft. Each week there will be a new craft to complete. For more information or to register, call (513) 876-4134.



Flag Day Dedication

Tuesday, June 14, 6:30 p.m. – New Richmond Branch

Join us for the dedication of the new flag and pole in the lobby, generously purchased with volunteer funds. The new flag has been certi-

fied as flown over the US Capitol on September 11, 2002, in remembrance of the one year anniversary of 9/11. Local veterans and Marines will respectfully remove the precious flag. For more information, call (513) 553-0570.

That 70's Party

Friday, June 28, 6:30

– Owensville Branch

Participants are invited to come learn about the fashion and pop culture of the 1970's. Play games, enjoy a root beer float, and come dressed in your 70's outfit. For more information or to register, call (513) 732-6084.

Summer Reading Kick-off

Tuesday, June 7, 12:30

p.m. – Bethel Branch

Sign up for summer reading, play games, win prizes, make crafts, and enjoy refreshments. Special guests from the Amazing Portable Circus of Cincinnati will be performing at 1 p.m. For more information, call (513) 734-2619.

Clermont County Safe Communities Joins Click It or Ticket To Crack Down on Seat Belt Use – Especially at Night

By: Carol Kisner, Clermont Safe Communities

The Clermont County General Health District along with Safe Communities will join local and national law enforcement officers and highway safety advocates all across the country for the 2011 national *Click It or Ticket* seat belt enforcement mobilization, through June 5, 2011.

During the mobilization, officers will be cracking down on motorists who fail to wear their seat belts – both day and night.

Because nighttime passenger vehicle occupants are among those least likely to buckle up and most likely to die in crashes when unrestrained, nighttime enforcement has become a priority of the *Click It or Ticket* mobilization. Of those who died in nighttime crashes in 2009, nearly two-thirds (62 percent) were not wearing seat belts at the time of their fatal crashes.

In 2009, 11,593 passenger vehicle occupants died in motor vehicle crashes nationwide between the nighttime hours of 6 p.m. and 5:59 a.m., according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Safe Communities coordinates a comprehensive seat belt use survey in Clermont County two

times a year. Nineteen designated sites are surveyed in the spring and again in the fall. In 2010, the spring average seat belt usage was 78.2 percent and in the fall the average was slightly higher at 79 percent. “The



Pictured attending the Click it or Ticket Fountain Square kickoff: P. Lane - Milford Police Department, Lt. R. McElfresh - State Highway Patrol, D. Scott - Clermont County Sheriff's Office, and S. Ball, Miami Township Police Department

overall seat belt use rates have increased significantly in Ohio going from 65 percent in 2000 to 84 percent in 2010,” said ODPS Director Thomas P. Charles. “Because hundreds of people still die each year not wearing their seat belt, it is critical that we continue to encourage seat belt use – day and night – through enforcement and education.”

“Many more nighttime traffic deaths can be prevented if more motorists simply start wearing their seat belts. That’s why the State Highway Patrol is strongly supporting enhanced nighttime enforcement of seat belt laws during the May 23 – June 5, 2011, *Click It or Ticket* campaign,” said Lt. Randy McElfresh. “We will be out in force to

remind drivers and occupants to always wear their seat belts – both day and night.”

High-visibility enforcement such as the *Click It or Ticket* mobilization is credited with

increasing the national belt usage rate from 58 percent in 1994 to an observed usage rate of 85 percent in 2010. Belt use saves thousands of lives each year across America. In 2009 alone, seat belts saved 12,713 lives nationwide.

“Law enforcement will be cracking down on *Click It or Ticket* violators around the clock. Local motorists should be prepared to buckle up. If law enforcement finds you on the road unbuckled anytime or anywhere, you can expect to get a ticket — not a warning. No excuses and no exceptions,” said Martha Enriquez, Safe Communities.

Remember: *Click It or Ticket*. Buckle up and encourage your loved ones to do the same. You’ll save the cost of a ticket and may even save a life.

Clermont County Permit Central NEWS

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

Summer Backyard Safety

By: Ray Sebastian, Chief Building Official

As summer approaches, homeowners need to take the time to check their outdoor areas for potential safety hazards. While most people know that pools are a safety hazard for kids, there are lot more things to watch out for in your backyard, like barbecues and grills, lawn equipment, and toys. Here are some zero to low cost, simple tips to help keep your family and friends safe in your backyard.



Pools and Spas:

- Nationally, drowning is the leading cause of death to children under 5 years old.
- According to the National Safety Council, 350 children under 5 drown in swimming pools each year and an additional 2,600 are treated in hospitals following submersion incidents with some resulting in permanent brain injury.
- Practice constant, adult

supervision around any body of water, including pools and spas.

- If you're considering a swim-

ming pool purchase, contact the Building Department to determine what permits are needed and what requirements you must follow.

- Any gates in the fence surrounding the pool must be self-closing and self-latching.
- Reserve a spot on a wall or fence near the pool for lifesaving devices.

Grilling:

- Designate the grilling area a "No Play Zone" and keep kids and pets well away until grill equipment is completely cool.
- Keep the barbeque grill away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.

It is also unsafe to use grills in a garage, porch or enclosed area that could trap carbon monoxide. Never grill on top of anything that can catch on fire

- Check propane cylinder noses for leaks before use
- Do not move hot grills.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.
- When grilling, have a fire extinguisher, a garden hose or at least 4 gallons of water close by in case of a fire.
- Never leave the grill unattended.



(continued on next page)

Permit Central News

Summer Backyard Safety

(continued)

Decks and porches:

- Deck collapse is one of the most serious threats faced in recreational safety with more than 800 injuries and 20 deaths reported in the last ten years.
- Check for warning signs for an unsafe deck, including loose or wobbly railings or support beams, missing or loose screws that connect a deck to the house, corrosion, rot and cracks.

Other general things to consider:

- Don't leave toys, tools, and equipment in the yard.
- Keep steps, sidewalks, and patios in good repair.
- Check all swings, slides, playhouses, and other structures for sharp objects, rusty metal pieces, breaks or weakened support pieces.
- Learn CPR.



Computer Myth!

Myth: It is bad to turn off the computer.

Truth: Computers are now designed to handle 40,000 on/off cycles. This is considerably more cycles than the average user will initiate in the computer's 5-7 year life span. Turning your computer off helps reduce heat stress and wear on the system.

Source: www.ohio.edu

Microwave Vs. Oven

According to the EPA, approximately 5 percent of our energy bills go to cooking. Aside from cooking food on a hot rock in the desert, microwaves are one of the most energy efficient, environmentally friendly ways to cook.

Compared to a traditional electric oven, a microwave is between 3.5 and 4.8 times more energy efficient than your average electric oven. If you want to talk dollars and cents, you would spend approximately .10 cents each time you cook something in a microwave, compared to .48 cents to cook that same thing in a traditional oven.

How Safe is Your Home?

The Home Safety Council (HSC) has a fun and educational website that can help you identify potential danger zones in your home.

The HSC is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing home related injuries that result in nearly 20,000 deaths and 21 million medical visits on average each year. Through national programs, partnerships and the support of volunteers, HSC educates people of all ages about home safety. HSC provides educational resources for teachers, policy makers, corporations as well as fire



and life safety experts to help educate and empower families to take actions that will increase the safety of their homes.

Check out the My Safe Home website for more information at www.MySafeHome.net.

Class of
2011

*"There is a good reason they call these ceremonies "commencement exercises." Graduation is not the end; it's the beginning."
~Orrin Hatch*

Travis Paul Smith

Travis graduated from Felicity-Franklin High School on May 29, 2011. He is the son of Jackie (Board of Elections) and James Smith.



Travis plans to attend Shawnee State University in the fall where he will major in Business Administration with a minor in marketing.

"He is the youngest of my children, he is very athletic and we are so proud of his many accomplishments," said his loving mom.



Kaitlyn and Kelsey Foster

Kaitlyn and Kelsey Foster graduate from Glen Este High School on June 3, 2011. They are the twin daughters of Deb Britton (OTCS).

Kaitlyn graduated from the Scientific Studies School at Glen Este. In the fall she will attend Eastern Kentucky University and major in Criminal Justice.

Kelsey (shorter hair) graduated from the American Studies School at Glen Este. She will attend Valparaiso University this fall, majoring in Psychology; she will be a Varsity Cheerleader for the Crusaders.





Make the most of yourself, for that is all there is of you.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

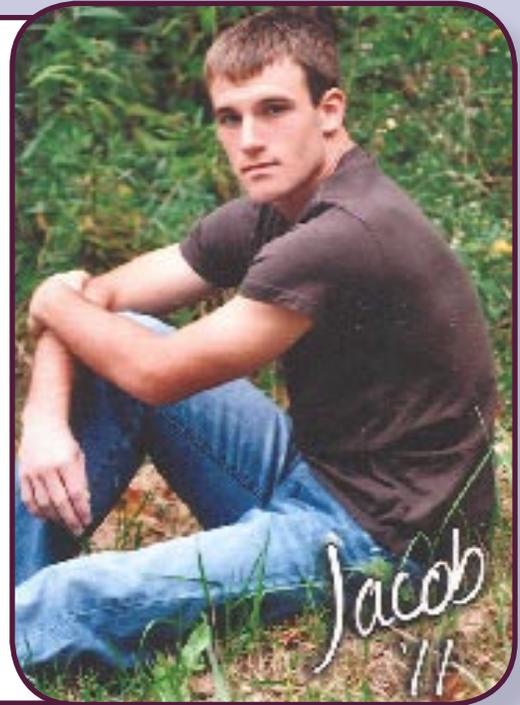
Jacob Banfill

Jacob Banfill is a 2011 graduate of Western Brown High School. He is the son of Barbara (DJFS/Children's Services) and Gary Banfill.

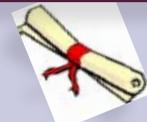


Jacob plans to attend West Virginia University, where he will pursue a degree in Biology-Wildlife Management/Fisheries.

"Jacob is my one and only," said his loving mom. "Jacob is true to himself and his interests. He loves the great outdoors."



Wherever you go, go with all your heart. ~Confucius



Joshua Oma Greene

Joshua Oma Greene graduated from New Richmond High School on May 27, 2011. He is the son of Kimberly (Juvenile Court) and Clinton Greene.

Joshua plans to attend the University of Cincinnati, where he will major in Biochemistry.

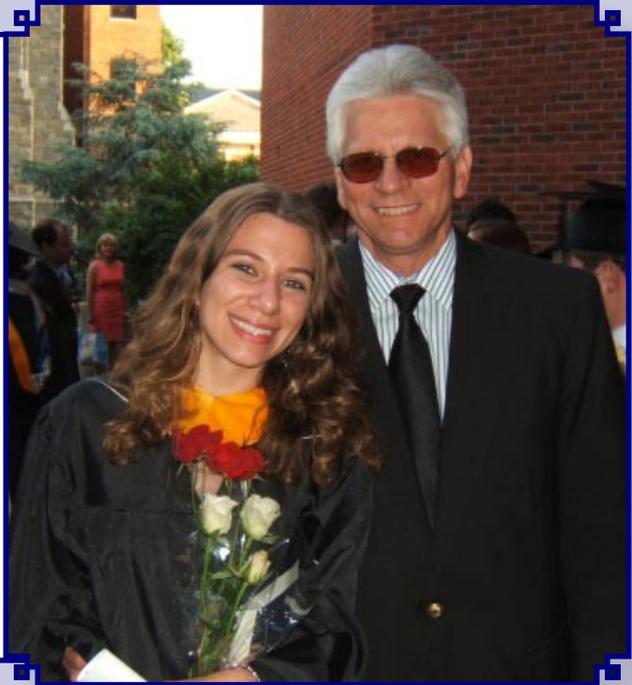
"Over the past 18 years, Joshua has been a tremendous blessing to his family," said his proud mom. "He never misses a beat to help out his mom and dad; he has a splendid sense of humor and is delightful to engage in conversation!"

Ashley Yeager



Ashley Yeager graduated from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. on May 21, 2011 with a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service. Ashley majored in International Politics and finished magna cum laude with a 3.8 grade point average.

Ashley is the daughter of Debby and Tom (Water Resources) Yeager.



“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”

- Mark Twain



Mark Burroughs

Mark Burroughs, son of Virgil and Kathy (Recorder's Office) Burroughs of Williamsburg, received his doctor of veterinary medicine degree from the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine on May 6, 2011.

Mark will apply his education and a love for animals, large and small, to the practice of veterinary medicine at the Mt. Orab Veterinary Clinic.

“You are educated. Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world.”

~Tom Brokaw

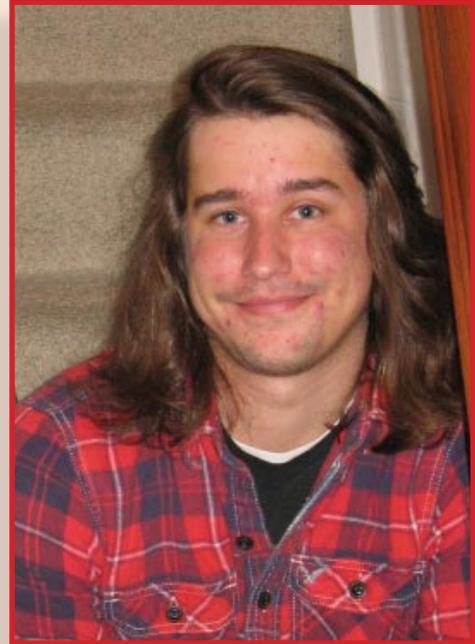


Eric Farley

Eric Farley, son of Gary (retired from Tax Maps) and Judy (Juvenile Court) Farley, graduated from the Ohio State University with a BA Psychology degree.

Eric has been accepted into the Master's program for Labor and Human Resources at the Fisher School of Business at Ohio State.

“Eric is a likeable, goal oriented young man, with his father’s sense of humor and the ability to be an individual,” said his proud mom. “Hopefully all those years of attending baseball, scouts, Eagle Scout projects, driving him everywhere, and worrying when he started to drive, will pay off so that he will be able to make enough money to support his parents (or at least his Mom!) in their old age!”



Nathan Tipton

Nathan Tipton, son of Holly Cruvey (Prosecutor's Office), graduated Friday, May 27, 2011 from Clermont Northeastern High School. Nathan will be attending the University of Cincinnati in the fall and will be studying early childhood education. He hopes to be a history teacher.

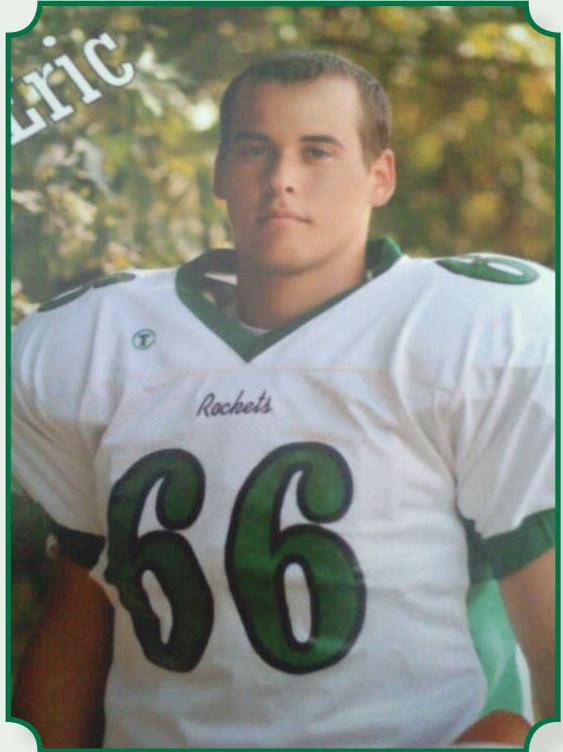
Nathan is proud to have been on this year's Varsity baseball team that won the Southern Buckeye Conference American Division Title for the second year in a row. They also made it to the District championship game, the furthest any CNE team has gone in school history.



Eric Williams

Eric Williams, son of Kathy Williams (Water Resources) and Jim Williams (Facilities) recently graduated from Fayetteville High School. Eric plans on attending University of Cincinnati-Clermont majoring in Electrical Engineering.

During high school, Eric was active in FFA and was a member of the Fayetteville Rockets football team where he earned the lineman of the year award this year. Eric is very involved in the teen program at his church. Dad and mom are very proud of all that he has accomplished.



Jordan Shouse

Jordan Shouse, son of Jeanine and Ron (Park District) Shouse graduated from Bethel Tate High school and the US Grant Career Center where he studied engineering design. Jordan will attend Cincinnati State College, where he will be enrolled in the engineering program.

Jared Shouse, another son, is graduating from the UC Paramedic program and is employed by the Washington Township Fire and Rescue Department.

Pictured above is Jared Shouse, Oscar Shouse (Grandfather) and Jordan Shouse



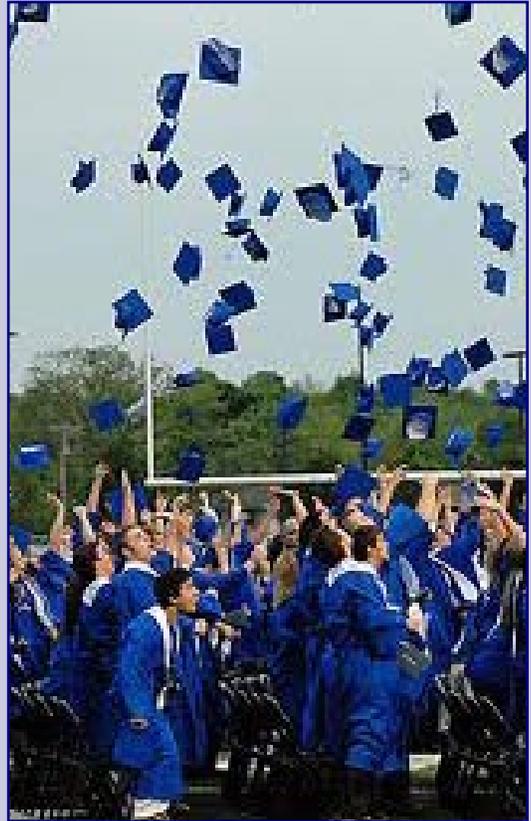
All our dreams can come true...if we have the courage to pursue them."

- Walt Disney

Miranda Kelly

Miranda Kelly has graduated from Western Brown High School. Her parents are Sandy (DJFS/CPS) and David Kelly. Miranda will be attending Kent State University where she is majoring in Music Education and will also be a part of their marching band.

Her high school accomplishments include being a member of the TRI-M music honor society, she has received the John Philip Sousa award which is the highest music accomplishment at the high school level, and she has been a 4 year starting catcher on the varsity softball team.



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

- Nelson Mandela

Heather Daugherty



Heather Elizabeth Daugherty is a graduate of Bethel Tate High School. She is the daughter of Amy Daugherty (DJFS-Child Support) and the granddaughter of Howard Daugherty (Veterans' Services Commission and Tate Township Trustee.)

Heather is only of only 13 seniors at Bethel Tate graduating with honors; she has been a member of the National Honor Society and a cheerleader.

She will attend Lake Erie College in the fall, where she will be a cheerleader. Heather will major in chemistry/biology, and hopes to be a radiologist.



Roasted Tomato Basil Soup ***(makes 6 servings)***

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 lb. fresh Roma tomatoes, chopped into chunks
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 cup + 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 cup sweet onions, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 14 oz. can diced tomatoes, with juice
- 1 large bunch basil, chopped, + 2 springs for garnish
- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme
- 1 quart chicken broth, reduced sodium

Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
2. Toss chopped Roma tomatoes, 1/4 cup oil, salt, and black pepper in a large bowl.
3. Spread in one layer on baking sheet. Roast for 45 minutes.
4. In a stockpot over medium heat, sauté 1 table spoon olive oil, onions, garlic, and red pepper flakes until the onions begin to brown.
5. Add canned tomatoes and reduced-sodium chicken broth heat through.
6. Add roasted tomatoes with liquid and bring to a soft boil; turn down the heat and simmer uncovered for 30 minutes.
7. Add fresh basil and thyme and simmer for another 10 minutes.
8. Use a large spoon to reduce size of the remaining tomato chunks.
9. Garnish with fresh basil and serve.

Tip:

1 teaspoon dried herb is the equivalent of 1 tablespoon fresh herb

Variations:

This soup recipe may be served hot as well as cold on a warm summer's day.

1 quart water and 4 tablespoons reduced or no sodium chicken flavored boullion or reduced sodium chicken stock may be used instead of the chicken broth. The tomatoes may be peeled and seeded if desired. Fresh chopped basil in refrigerated tube may be substituted for fresh basil.



Margaret Jenkins



NUTRITION FACTS PER SERVING: ----
148 calories, 7g total fat, 3mg protein,
7g carbohydrates, 0mg cholesterol, 3g
dietary fiber, 140mg sodium

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 or Rebecca Kimble at (513) 732-7597 or e-mail klehr@co.clermont.oh.us.