



On the Move

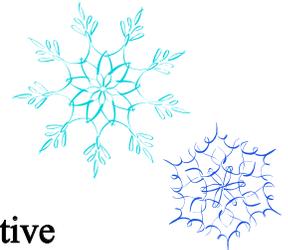
*a newsletter for citizens
December 2009*

www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov

Commissioners: Ed Humphrey, Bob Proud, and Scott Crowell

Dear Fellow Citizens,

During this joyous season, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you in 2009. We sincerely hope that your interaction with county government has been a positive experience.



We have much to be thankful for this holiday season. Many of our local businesses have been able to successfully weather this economic downturn and are moving ahead leaner but stronger. Just as you are at home, we are tightening our belts as the economy slowly recovers. Our government is on solid financial ground; over the past few months we have worked closely with other elected officials on innovative ways to provide quality service at the lowest possible cost. We recently approved a conservative 2010 budget that we believe will meet those goals.

Through numerous public and private partnerships, you can expect more infrastructure and roadway improvements in 2010 and additional efforts aimed at retaining and attracting business to this great county we call home.

As you gather with family and friends during this special time of the year, we encourage you to keep a candle burning brightly to remember our troops spending another holiday season away from their loved ones. If possible, we also encourage you to lend a helping hand to those in the community who are less fortunate.

Merry Christmas to you and your family and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2010!

The Board of Clermont County Commissioners,

Ed Humphrey
President

Bob Proud
Vice President

Scott Crowell
Board Member

County 2010 Operating Budget Includes \$4.5 Million Cut

The Board of Clermont County Commissioners (BCC) has approved a \$47.2 million general fund operating budget for 2010, down from the \$51.7 budget in 2009.

The budget was approved after months of meetings between elected officials to further tighten the belt on government services and expenditures.

The budget includes no pay increases for non-bargaining county employees; no furloughs are anticipated, for at least the first six months of the year. "By the middle of 2010, we will reassess the budget and determine whether furloughs will be needed," said BCC President Ed Humphrey.

The BCC has agreed to spend \$1.5 million of reserve funds to help balance the 2010 budget; an estimated \$6.1 million in reserve funds will be utilized to balance the 2009 budget.

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." ~ Henry Ford

Kiskaden and Nevel to Manage 9-1-1 Center and EMA

The Board of Clermont County Commissioners (BCC) has named John Kiskaden as the new Clermont County 9-1-1 Communications Center Manager. Kiskaden previously served as the Union Township Communications Center Director, supervising the 9-1-1 operations center there; he retired in February 2009 with over 30 years experience in law enforcement and emergency dispatch services.

The position was vacated when Beth Nevel retired as the 9-1-1 communications manager and

Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director earlier this year after 9 ½ years overseeing both divisions. Nevel will return to serve as Emergency Management Agency Director in the county, effective January 4, 2010. Kiskaden and Nevel were unanimously recommended as the top candidates for the positions by a selection committee comprised of representatives of the county police and fire chief's associations, and county personnel.

Kiskaden will begin his new position on Monday, December 7, 2009.



December Commissioner Sessions

Wednesday, Dec. 2	1 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 9	1 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 14	1 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 16	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.



Clermont County has a flu hotline available at (513) 588-5121

Holiday in the Village of Batavia

The Village of Batavia will light up the holiday season with a special evening planned on Saturday, December 12, 2009. "Local businesses, government buildings, and homes throughout the village are encouraged to keep their lights on that evening and there will be a village-wide luminaria display," said Village of Batavia Administrator Rebecca Groppe. "Between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. at the Batavia Village Hall, enjoy refreshments, pictures with Santa (donated by

Batavia Police), door prizes, and treats for children." The Village Hall is located at 389 E. Main Street in Batavia.

The "Holiday in the Village" event will also include horse drawn wagon rides and a contest for the best decorated storefront. Contact the Village of Batavia for more information at (513) 732-2020.



If you received all of the gifts in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," you would receive 364 gifts!



Nutcracker Featured at Festive Promont House

The Greater Milford Area Historical Society has again transformed the historic Promont House Museum with Nutcracker themed decorations throughout the mansion.



Promont is a beautiful, three-story, Victorian Italianate

mansion built between 1865 and 1867 by William McGrue. Originally set on more than 50 acres, today the grounds occupy five acres of lovely, mature trees and gardens.

Promont has been restored to its appearance in 1879-1906, in honor of its most famous resident, John M. Pattison, Ohio's 43rd governor.

For more information about holiday events at Promont, visit the Web site www.MilfordHistory.net.

Bethel Downhome Holidays

The seventh annual *Bethel Downhome Holidays* celebration will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2009. "We've got so many activities planned for the day," said organizer Judi Adams. "The day begins with a Santa breakfast, and there will be a craft show, village businesses will hold open houses; there will be a decorating contest for best window display, crafts for children, a parade at 4 p.m., and a cantata at Bethel United Methodist Church that evening."



Event organizers Susan Barger, Teresa Baudendistel, and Judi Adams

"We invite everyone to stop by Burke Park that day for a free cup of coffee or hot cider and a bowl of vegetable soup," added Ron Shouse with the Burke Park Log Cabin Committee.

For more information on the *Bethel Downhome Holidays* celebration call (513) 734-4445.

Holiday Trivia

The only female deer to grow antlers are reindeer. Each summer, both males and females grow their wonderful racks, but males usually shed theirs in late November to mid-December. Females keep their antlers until spring. Because all of Santa's reindeer are depicted with antlers, one might conclude that every one of them, including Rudolph, is female.



Junk the Junk Mail!



Junk mail creates four million tons of preventable waste each year! This junk:

- Costs taxpayers \$320 million in disposal fees annually
- Destroys 62 million trees a year
- Creates 28 billion gallons of wastewater each year
- Fills 3 percent of America's landfills
- 44 percent of the trash is unopened and unread!

Most junk mail companies get your name and information from just a few major mailing lists. One thing you can do to reduce the amount of junk mail that is sent to you is to add your name to the DO NOT MAIL List. This is a free service available at www.directmail.com. Other telephone and Web site links are available

for removing your name from mailing lists; for more information visit the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Web site at www.ohiodnr.com.

Tree Trivia

Over 30 million evergreen trees are sold each year in this country during the month of December. The best selling trees are Scotch Pine, Douglas Fir, Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir, and White Pine. It can take up to 15 years to grow a 6-foot holiday tree; the National Christmas Tree Association reports that for every tree harvested, one to three seedlings are planted each year.



League of Women Voters Holds Holiday Program

By: Cyn Macke, League of Women Voters

If you are looking for a way to increase your civic engagement, please plan to attend the Clermont County League of Women Voters Holiday Program. We are welcoming guests and prospective members to join us for a

festive evening of holiday cheer. The program will be held at Pinebrook Senior Living, 5877 Wolfpen Pleasant Hill Road



Rick Crawford

and historian, Richard Crawford, a cookie/candy exchange, and brief presentation on the good work of Clermont County Children's Pro-

in Milford, on Tuesday evening, December 8, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. The evening will include dinner, Clermont County historical storytelling by

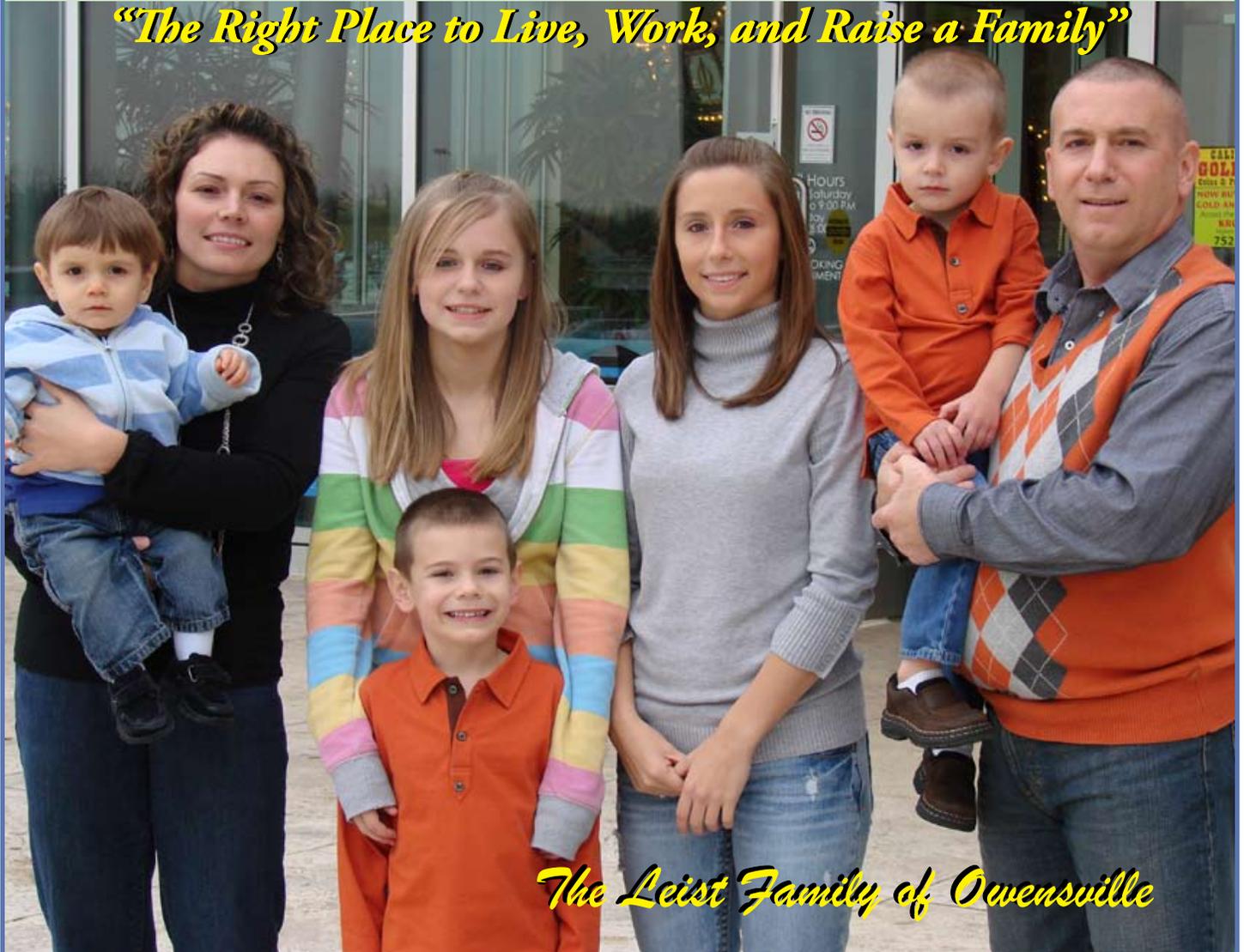
protective Services.

Come and learn more about the important community work of the League of Women Voters and enjoy some holiday cheer with new friends. The cost of the evening is \$15; reservations can be made on the League Web site www.lwvclermont.com or by calling (513) 831-2997 or e-mailing mkleinfelter@cincinnati.com.



Clermont County

"The Right Place to Live, Work, and Raise a Family"



The Leist Family of Owensville

Clermont Northeastern Superintendent Neil Leist and his family, residents of Owensville, enjoy a recent shopping trip in Clermont County

Clermont County: The Right Place is a public education project of the Clermont County Public Relations Group

Call (513) 576-5013 for more information

Know someone who has made a real difference in the community?

By: Frankie Hughart, Clermont 2020

Now is the time for you to nominate local heroes and leaders in the Clermont County area. Clermont 20/20, Inc. is calling for nominations for the 17th Annual Salute to Leaders Awards Ceremony.



Leaders honor are chosen for their willingness to serve others, personal commitment to make a difference, and those who see their community as something bigger than themselves. Their commitment includes helping to build a stronger community for the generations who will follow

them.

Each year this event recognizes non-elected individuals and organizations for their contributions to their communities and Clermont County.

Salute to Leaders has been a way for Clermont County to take a moment and recognize citizens who have chosen to be a leader and contributed to the community. The Salute is a time when we can say "thank you" to these individuals for making the commitment and serving others when they didn't have to.

People selected for the Salute to

Nominations may be made in the following categories:

1. Civic
2. Community Project
3. Education
4. Environmental/Parks and Recreation
5. Health/Health Care
6. Human Services
7. Rural Interest
8. Safety/Justice
9. The Up 'n Over Youth Leadership Award
10. Dr. Richard J. Zinsmeister Humanitarian Award
11. The William H. Over Leadership Award



Category descriptions and nomination forms are available at www.clermont2020.org. Please e-mail your nomination to frankie.hughart@clermont2020.org or mail to:

Clermont 20/20, Inc.
1000 Ohio Pike, Suite 2,
Cincinnati, Ohio 45245

*** Nominations must be received no later than December 16, 2009.**

Clermont Auditor Recognized for Going Above and Beyond

Clermont County Auditor Linda L. Fraley is a recipient of the Distinguished County Auditor award, presented by the County Auditors' Association of Ohio (CAAO). This award recognizes auditors that have completed 100 or more hours of continuing education during their term of office. By law, auditors are required to complete 24 hours of continuing education.

"I am honored to receive this award," said Fraley. "The importance of continuing education in today's fast paced and changing en-

vironment cannot be stressed enough." Fraley's continuing education has included classes pertaining to standards of mass appraisal, single audit and governmental standards, public records and records retention, ethics, and substance abuse.

Fraley was recognized and received the award from CAAO President Doug Green, during the CAAO Winter Conference in Columbus, on Tuesday, November 17, 2009.

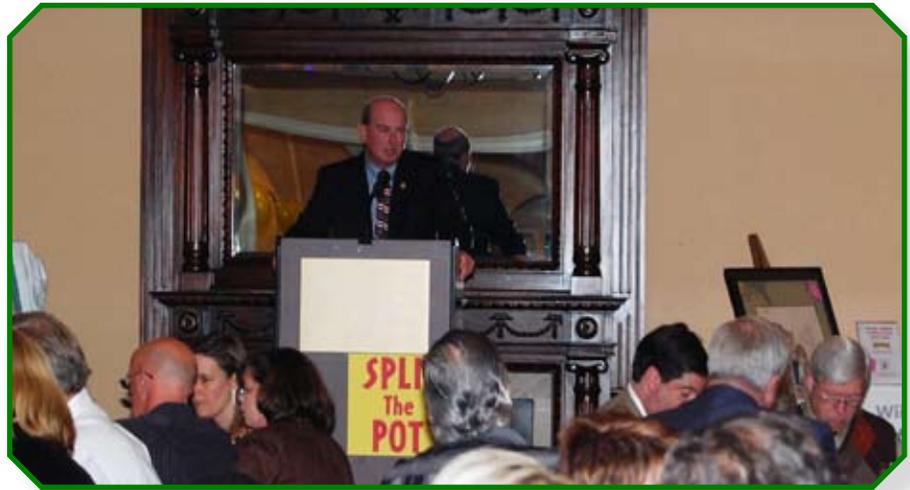


Linda Fraley

Successful Fundraiser for Animal Shelter

“The homeless and unwanted animals in the county thank you for your generosity,” said Clermont County Humane Society Vice President Nadora Hill. “Over 240 people attended the annual dinner and auction that raised over \$22,000 for the Clermont Animal Shelter.” The November 7, 2009 fundraiser was held at the Norlyn Manor in Batavia Township; the silent and live auctions featured over 300 items including original artwork, deluxe vacation accommodations, and Cincinnati Bengals signed items.

“We are indebted to all the wonderful people who continue to support this auction and the Humane Society, through their donations, attendance, and be-



Clermont Commissioner Bob Proud delivers remarks and provides the invocation for the annual Clermont Humane Society dinner at the Norlyn Manor

hind the scenes efforts,” said Hill. “Unfortunately, adoption fees alone do not generate enough revenue to cover the expenses needed to care for our animals. Fundraising events, such as this auction, help us offset that deficit.”

Germany made the first artificial Christmas trees. They were made from goose feathers, and dyed green!

Bridgeman Receives Citizen Service Award

By: Mae Hanna, UC Clermont

UC Clermont College Associate Professor of Criminal Justice Ed Bridgeman was honored at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy and Commission for his contribution to the academy and commission.

Bridgeman was presented with the Citizen Service Award by Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray, Deputy Attorney General for Law Enforcement John Lenhart, and Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission Executive Director Ronald Ferrell for the lending of his expertise and his dedication in assisting the

State of Ohio in providing excellent law enforcement training.

“Ed Bridgeman has donated a countless number of hours in providing his knowledge and experience as a law enforcement officer, instructor, commander, and school administrator. He is well deserving of this award,” said John R. Martin, Curriculum and Testing Supervisor, Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission.



John Lenhart, Ed Bridgeman, Attorney General Cordray, and Ronald Ferrell

Holiday Pet Pictures with Santa

If you are looking for a 'paws-ively' 'purr-fect' holiday present, consider taking your pet for a visit with Santa! The Clermont County Humane Society is sponsoring a ***Photos with Santa*** fundraiser to benefit the homeless animals in the county. Bring your dog, cat, or other critter to the Petsmart store, located at 245 River's Edge in Milford, on Saturday, December 12 or Sunday, December 13 between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. for the pictures. "Bring the whole family to pose with the pets," said "Santa" Pete Palazzolo, who has dressed as the jolly red elf to pose with pets and people for the past six years. No appointments will be taken; pictures are on a first come, first served basis.

"Santa" Pete says he has posed with all types of critters over the years, including birds, ferrets, and even gerbils. "If they are your pet and you can bring them in a carrier or on a leash, they are welcome to come see Santa," laughs Palazzolo. "The elves that take the pictures are



"Santa" Pete Palazzolo poses with 4-year-old Polly at the Clermont Animal Shelter, located at 4025 Filager Road in Batavia

great when it comes to getting everyone's attention, even if the pet is forced by his or her owner to wear a stocking hat or jingle bell collar!"

The ***Photos with Santa*** cost \$9.95; \$5 of the price goes to care for the many homeless and unwanted animals in Clermont County. "This year we are seeing an increasing number of animals coming into the county shelter," said Clermont

Animal Shelter Director Kim Naegel. "The money that is raised through this fundraiser will help us feed and care for them, until we can hopefully find them a new home."

For more information about ***Photos with Santa***, contact the Clermont County Animal Shelter at (513) 732-8854.

Census Jobs Available!

The U.S. Census Bureau is now hiring! Openings are available for office and field staff.

For more information, call 1-866-861-2010.

Holiday Trivia: What is Figgy Pudding?

Before you sing, "Now bring us some figgy pudding," it might be helpful to know exactly what you are requesting. Figgy pudding is an English dish similar to bread pudding. Made from figs, bread crumbs, cinnamon, nutmeg, and milk, the pudding is baked, then topped with a scrumptious brandied hard sauce, custard icing, powdered sugar, or whipped cream.

The dish was immortalized in the song "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and was served by Mrs. Cratchit in the Charles Dickens classic A Christmas Carol.



Lucinda Chandler and Martha Jane Zeigler demonstrate holiday wrapping and bow making at the Amelia Library

“Tie One On for Safety Campaign” Promotes Safe and Sober Holiday Season

According to Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) crash statistics, 449 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes in Ohio in 2008. Of those crashes, 33 of the fatalities occurred between Thanksgiving and New Years. Of those killed in alcohol-related car crashes in 2008, 233 were not wearing their seatbelts.

With those statistics in mind, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP), and other safety advocates have again teamed up for the annual “Tie One On for Safety Campaign.” The campaign encourages citizens to tie a red ribbon on their car as a pledge to be safe on roadways. The campaign encourages driv-

ers to buckle up, because a seatbelt is the best defense against a drunk driver.



Local law enforcement around the state is planning more than 11,000 hours of enforcement this holiday season including 22 sobriety checkpoints and more than 2,600 hours of saturation patrols.

“Ohio motorists need to take responsibility for themselves and others by setting a good example, ensuring that alcohol and driving don’t mix,” said Ohio State Highway Patrol Interim Superintendent Capt. Kevin Teaford. “Simple things like planning ahead to designate a driver if you choose to consume alcohol, and insisting that everyone in the vehicle is buckled up before you leave, can go a long way toward ensuring tragedies do not occur.”

Lois Briggs’ daughter Amy was killed by a drunk driver, while she and her husband were helping a

friend who was stranded after his car ran out of gas along a highway. As they were helping their friend, a drunk driver who had recently left a corporate holiday party, swerved off the roadway, hitting the couple. Amy was thrown approximately 150 feet from the point of impact, killing her. This tragic event took place in 1992, on the same day MADD was kicking off its annual “Tie One On for Safety Campaign.”

**Clermont
County has its
own You Tube
channel.**

**Check it out at
www.youtube.com/clermont-county**

Dealing with a Financial Situation Before it Becomes a Crisis

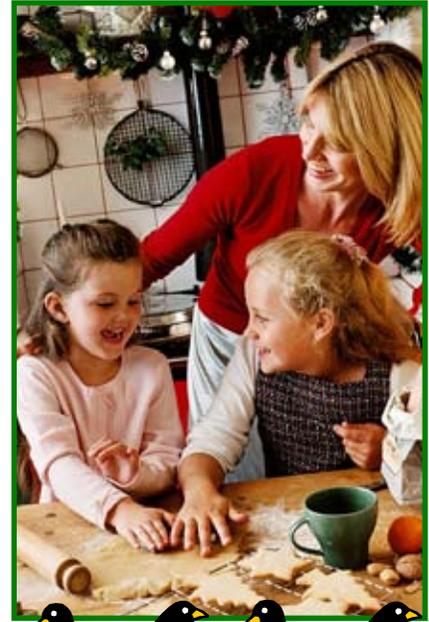
By: Scot Lahrmer, Assistant County Administrator

While Clermont County Administrator Dave Spinney has over 25 years in local government management, it is his eight years leading our county with dwindling revenues that caught the attention of the State Auditor's Office. Dave was asked by State Auditor Mary Taylor's Office to be part of a day-long series of presentations informing local governments about *Strategies and Solutions in a Time of Fiscal Crisis*. Spinney shared his experience on how Clermont County has been able to take proactive steps to make tough decisions before a financial situation becomes a crisis.

Spinney's November 19, 2009 presentation described how Clermont County's approach to declining revenues has been managed by budgeting for outcomes and spending within our means. While these concepts aren't new ideas, they aren't practiced by all local governments. Clermont County differentiates between ongoing and one-time revenues and expenditures, and has been able to shift the focus from expenditures to revenues. Mr. Spinney shared with other local government officials how Clermont County analyzes the long term budget impact of grants and annually evaluates fees for services. Identifying and isolating problem areas of the budget, for example, employee health insurance costs, was another point

highlighted by Mr. Spinney.

Under direction from the Board of County Commissioners, Spinney has incorporated economic analysis and long-term planning into the budget process, while maintaining adequate reserves. His presentation also emphasized the significance of communicating the county's financial plans, especially to elected officials. Overall, local government officials welcomed the practices of Clermont County as the downturn in the economy continues to whittle away at local government revenues.



Legion and Santa Bring Holiday Cheer to Local Kids

The Stuart G. Luginbuhl post of the American Legion in Mount Carmel was filled with the sounds of laughter and celebration on December 3, 2009, as Santa paid an early holiday visit to 90 underprivileged children from across Clermont County. "It is a tradition the county American Legion posts have been engaged with for over 60 years," said Don Chandler with the American Legion's Milford post. "The Legion's nine posts work with schools in the county to identify children who are most in need. We get wish lists from the kids and purchase the items; with Santa's (Dave Brewer) help, the gifts are presented at the annual holiday party."



"Santa" Dave Brewer and Don Chandler with the American Legion's Milford post welcome kids to the annual holiday party.



"Gym Shoe" Jim Brewer entertains the children with his balloon creatures

Oh, Deer!

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

As the colder weather arrives so will the unfortunate likelihood of increased accidents involving deer.

According to records of the Ohio Department of Public Safety our state had 24,590 crashes involving deer during

2008. As a result of those crashes six people were killed and 979 people were injured. In Clermont County alone there were 473 collisions between vehicles and deer. The greatest number of accidents occur during mating season (the rut) which is October, November, and December. It is especially important during this time of year to be aware of the potential for a crash.

The Insurance Information Institute recommends the following tips to avoid a vehicle-deer collision:

- Be especially attentive from sunset to midnight and during the hours shortly before and after sunrise. These are the highest risk times for deer-vehicle collisions.
- Drive with caution when moving through deer-crossing zones (which are usually marked with a traffic sign) which are known to have a large deer population and in areas



where roads divide agricultural fields from forestland. Deer seldom run alone. If you see one deer, others

may be nearby.

- When driving at night, use high beam headlights when there is no on-coming traffic. The

high beams

will better illuminate the eyes of deer on or near the roadway.

- Slow down and blow your horn with one long blast to frighten the deer away.

- Brake firmly when you notice a deer in or near your path, but stay in your lane. Many serious crashes occur when drivers swerve to avoid a deer and hit another vehicle or lose control of their cars.

- Always wear your seat belt. Most people injured in car/deer crashes were not wearing their seat belt.

- Do not rely on devices such as deer whistles, deer fences, and reflectors to deter deer. These devices have not been proven to reduce deer-vehicle collisions.

If your vehicle strikes a deer, do not touch the animal. A frightened and wounded deer can hurt you or further injure itself. The best procedure is to get your car off the road, if possible, and call the police.

Absolutely stay out of the roadway.

Bring Your Quarters and Get Ready to Have Fun!

Clermont County Children's Protective Services is having a Quarter Auction on Friday, December 11, 2009 at the American Legion in Old Milford, located at 450 Victor Stier Drive. The auction preview will begin at 6:15 p.m., and the auction will run from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.



Bidding paddles are \$2 each, or \$1 each if you bring an unwrapped

toy to donate. In addition to the auction, there will be raffle drawings and a split-the-pot drawing.

Proceeds will go to Children's Protective Services programs.

Please bring your own quarters; no other coins will be accepted. To RSVP, call (513) 732-7765 or email thompa04@odjfs.state.oh.us; please RSVP by Tuesday, December 8, 2009.



On Patrol

Designate a sober driver and buckle up for a safe holiday season

By: Lt. Randy McElfresh, OSHP Batavia Post

On behalf of all the women and men of your local Ohio State Highway Patrol Post, I am glad to write this column and wish you and your family a happy and safe holiday season.

This year we are pleased to be partnering with MADD, the Ohio Department of Public Safety, local law enforcement officers and so many great organizations focused on the safety of Ohioans.



Through the years, we have accomplished a great deal in drawing attention to the dangerous crime of impaired driving. Thanks in large part to the commitment of the people and organizations that make up our community safety net, I am proud to say we continue to make a difference by improving the quality of life for people, families, and businesses in our area.

As we look forward to the final weeks of this year and the upcoming holiday period, I urge motorists to use common sense and make conscientious decisions when it comes to traffic safety.

We need each person's help by actively influencing friends and family to make the safe, responsible decisions that save lives.

Simple things like planning ahead to designate a driver if you choose to consume alcohol, and insisting that everyone in the vehicle is buckled up before you leave, can go a long way toward ensuring tragedies do not occur.

The decisions you make have consequences, and my message to all motorists and visitors to our area this holiday season is to take responsibility for yourselves and others by setting a good example, ensuring that alcohol and driving don't mix, and spreading the buckle up message.

The state troopers and staff of your local Ohio State Highway Patrol post wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. As always, please remember to continue using 1-877-7-PATROL to report dangerous drivers, stranded motorists, or to report impaired drivers. For more information about highway safety during the holidays, please visit our Web site www.statepatrol.ohio.gov.

There are many dangers for your pets lurking around the house during the holiday season. Many traditional holiday plants can make your pets very sick, or cause death. These plants include mistletoe, poinsettia plants, holly, lillies, amaryllis, and daffodils. Several of the foods humans enjoy during the holidays are toxic to our pets, including chocolate, raisins, and grapes. Cooked chicken and turkey bones are also dangerous for pets to chew because they are brittle, break easily, and can cause internal lacerations. Remember to keep candles out of reach from pets!

Second Chances



Meet Stretch! He is a super handsome, laid back cat approximately one year old. He was brought into the shelter as a stray. Stretch has already been neutered, which will save his new family the cost of that procedure. He gets along with everyone – other cats, dogs, and even kids. He would make a great addition to any family.



Introducing Baxter! He is an adorable neutered Puggle, approximately 1 ½ years old. Baxter was brought into the shelter as a stray. Baxter gets along with everyone, and loves going for walks. He has a very sweet personality, and is very friendly and loving. He would fit in well with any household, as long as he will receive the exercise and attention he needs.

Call the Clermont Animal Shelter at (513) 732-8854 and give these animals a second chance at a happy life.



December Clermont Park Events

By: Keith Robinson, Park District

Winter Night Hike

Friday, December 4, 6 p.m. – Sycamore Park

Join the naturalist for a nocturnal adventure as we look for raccoons, listen for owls, and see what other nocturnal wildlife we can find. Meet at the information kiosk.

Winter is for the Birds

Wednesday, December 9, 6:30 p.m. – Hartman Log Cabin

Have you always wanted to create a backyard bird feeding station? Now is the time! Food sources are low, and birds will take advantage for an easy meal of seeds offered to them. Find out all you need to know to attract goldfinches, cardinals, sparrows, woodpeckers, and more.



PUCO Offers Holiday Decoration Safety Tips

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) this week released safety and conservation tips to keep energy bills man-



ageable during this winter season as many Ohio families begin putting up decorations over Thanksgiving to celebrate the holidays.

Holiday decorations can pose several safety hazards. The commission offered the following guidelines:

- Check strands of holiday lights. Discard strands of lights that have frayed or broken cords.
- Use the correct type of lights for indoor and outdoor use, and plug

lights into a power strip with a built-in circuit breaker.

- When using a ladder to hang outside holiday lights, make sure to stay a clear distance away from any nearby power lines.

- When looking for a live tree, look for a

fresh one. Dry trees are a bigger fire hazard than fresh ones.

- Make sure artificial trees are flame-resistant.

- Don't place the tree near the fireplace, heat vents, or portable heaters, and use nonflammable ornaments to decorate the tree.

- Open the fireplace flue before lighting a fire to ensure proper ventilation.

- Make sure all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in working condition and have fresh batteries.

Some ways to manage electric and

natural gas bills this season include the following:

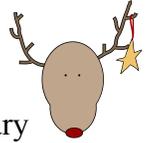
- Use energy efficient light emitting diode (LED) holiday light bulbs. Although more expensive than standard holiday bulbs, LED bulbs last longer and will save money on electric bills.

- Put outdoor lights on a timer to save energy and keep the house secure when traveling.

- Keep the thermostat set to 68 degrees, and turn it down more when not at home or sleeping. A programmable thermostat is an affordable way to keep the home comfortable and save energy.

- When traveling, set the temperature to 55 degrees to save energy while away and prevent water pipes from freezing.





Under Wraps

Saturday, December 5, 1 p.m.
Amelia Branch
Join the library for an afternoon of fun! There will be a wrapping paper exchange and lessons on how to wrap a holiday package like a pro. For more information or to register, call (513) 752-5580.



Bethel Down Home Holidays Open House

Saturday, December 5, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Bethel Branch
Come to the library for stories, make a gingerbread house, enjoy refreshments, and bring the kids for a winter activity book and coloring page. Preregistration is required for the gingerbread house program; participants will need to bring their own candy and icing. For more information or to register, call (513) 734-2619.

Make a Holiday Gift Basket

Saturday, December 12, 11 a.m.
Goshen Branch
Decorate three canning jars to fill with seasoned popcorn, chocolate pretzels, and cookie mix. Participants will need to bring their own basket. For more information, call (513) 722-1221.

Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 5, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
New Richmond Branch



There will a bow making demonstration, the Resurrection Bell Ringers will perform, and you can join us to make your own gingerbread house. Preregistration is required for the gingerbread house program; participants need to bring their own candy and icing. For more information or to register, call (513) 553-0570.

Winter Wonderland

Saturday, December 12, 10 a.m.
Union Township Branch
Listen to stories about winter, and make a craft to take home. For more information or to register, call (513) 528-1744.



Gift-in-a-Jar Make and Take Workshop

Tuesday, December 8, 6 p.m.
New Richmond
Make a curried rice, an all purpose rub for meat, oatmeal cookie mix, cream cheese mints, and hot chocolate mix in a jar to take home or give as a gift. Space is limited; preregistration is required. Call (513) 553-0570 to register.

Family Fun Storytime

Saturday, December 12, 2 p.m.
Amelia Branch
Bring the stories for a Holiday Hullabaloo! Enjoy stories, crafts, and hands-on activities for everyone. Children must be accompanied by a parent. For more information or to register, call (513) 752-5580.

Clermont Animal Shelter Holiday Wish Tree

If you'd like to help the homeless and unwanted animals in Clermont County this holiday season, visit the shelter and select either a white or blue snowflake ornament, purchase the item that is attached, return the item to the shelter, and keep the ornament as a thank you for your donation.

"The white snowflakes include requests for items like stamps,



Clermont Animal Shelter Director Kim Naegel places a snowflake ornament on the shelter Holiday Wish Tree.

blankets, clay cat litter, office supplies, and rawhide chew toys," said Clermont Animal Shelter Director Kim Naegel.

The blue snowflakes are for larger items, such as a commercial washer and dryer, a copy machine, and a digital camera.

The Clermont Animal Shelter is located at 4025 Filager Road in Batavia. The shelter is open from 11:30 a.m. until 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

For more information about the Holiday Wish Tree or for adoption information call (513) 732-8854.



Clermont State Patrol Post Presents Bengals with Safety Award



The Bengals' Marvin Lewis and Katie Blackburn receive the Ohio State Highway Patrol's 2009 Partners for Safety Award from Cathy Collins (Dept. of Public Safety Services) and Batavia Post Commander of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Lt. Randy McElfresh



Amy Matheney demonstrates how to make holiday jar treats at the New Richmond branch of the Clermont County Public Library

Pearl Harbor Remembrances

New Richmond Ceremony

“The Japanese planes were so close that day, we could have hit them with potatoes,” said Pearl Harbor survivor Joe Whitt, recalling a day he said he will never forget; they are memories that have not grown dim with time. “I had just turned 18 years old and had been in the Navy only 11 months when I found myself on the USS San Francisco on that ill-fated day, December 7, 1941. The memories of that day are forever embedded in my brain, the loud noises, the screams, the USS Arizona exploding and the battleship Oklahoma turning over. None of us that survived were ever the same after that day.”

Whitt will be among the Pearl Harbor survivors honored at a *Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony* in New Richmond on Sunday, December 6, 2009; the 2 p.m. ceremony will be held at the Market Street School, located at 212 Market Street in New Richmond. “We encourage parents to bring their children to the event,” said Ralph Shepherd, with the Clermont County Council of the American Legion. “This ceremony will feature comments by State Representative Colonel Danny Bulp (R-88), patriotic music, and a few surprises.”

“Whitt and the other survivors are living history; we are losing more and more of them every year,” said Director of the Clermont County Veterans’ Service Office Dan Bare, who will also take part in the event. “This Pearl Harbor Re-



membrance Ceremony is a wonderful opportunity to tell these brave individuals thanks for all they have done and all they have sacrificed.”

“As a famous philosopher so eloquently put it, if we fail to remember the past we are doomed to repeat it,” said Rep. Colonel Bulp. “We must always be prepared to ensure that a Pearl Harbor or terrorist attack on America, like 9/11 doesn’t happen again.”

Remembrance Week Set

The Board of Clermont County Commissioners (BCC) has proclaimed December 6 through December 12, 2009 as *Pearl Harbor Remembrance Week* in Clermont County. The proclamation, accepted by local Pearl Harbor survivor Joe Whitt, recognized the sacrifices and unparalleled heroism that occurred on December 7, 1941, when a sudden attack on the United States Pacific Fleet at Pearl

Harbor took the lives of over 2,400 Americans, injuring many others.

On December 7, in conjunction with a declaration issued by Ohio Governor Ted Strickland, all flags on county government buildings will be flown at half-staff from sunrise to sunset.

Pictured above: Commissioner Scott Crosswell, Bill Engeman (Maupin Pavilion), Bill Miller (Maupin Pavilion), Joe Whitt, Don Chandler (American Legion Post 450), Ken Ellis (Post 773), Commissioner Ed Humphrey, Bob Derr (Post 773), John Rolke (Post 773), Ralph Shepherd (Post 550), and Commissioner Bob Proud.



In the Kitchen with Margaret

By: Margaret Jenkins, OSU Extension-Clermont

Cranberry Almond Biscotti (makes about 19 servings)

Ingredients:

½ cup Splenda brown sugar	½ teaspoon vanilla extract
2.5 cups whole-grain wheat flour	½ teaspoon pure almond extract
1 teaspoon baking powder	4 Tablespoons water
½ teaspoons baking soda	½ cup Splenda no-calorie sweetener
1 large egg	2 egg whites
2 oz. almonds (56 grams or 46 whole kernels)	½ cup dried cranberries

Preparation:

1. Pre-heat oven to 350° F.
2. Toast almonds for 8-10 minutes until lightly brown and fragrant. Let cool, coarsely chop, and set aside.
3. In large bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, sweetener, baking powder, and baking soda until blended. Set aside.
4. In a small bowl, lightly beat the eggs, water, and extracts together.
5. Gradually add egg mixture to the flour mix and beat until a dough forms, adding almonds and dried cranberries about halfway through.
6. On a lightly floured surface, roll dough into a log about 14" long and 3-4" wide.
7. Transfer log to the prepared baking sheet and bake for 15 minutes, cut into ½ inch strips and then bake for another 10-15 minutes or until firm to the touch.
8. Remove from oven to cool and store in an airtight container.

Variations:

Note: You can substitute hazelnuts or walnuts instead of almonds. If desired, add 1 Tablespoon orange or lemon zest to the egg mixture.

Nutrition Information: Per serving - 114 calories, 2.3 g total fat, .2 g saturated fat, .2 g monounsaturated fat, .1 g polyunsaturated fat, 21g protien, 20 g carbohydrates, .5 mg cholesterol, 3 g dietary fiber, 50 mg sodium



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 Kathryn Lehr or Rebecca Kimble in the Office of Public Information at (513) 732-7597 or e-mail klehr@co.clermont.oh.us.