



On the Move

a newsletter for citizens
January 2010

www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov

Commissioners: Ed Humphrey, Bob Proud, and Scott Crowell

Generous Donations Brighten Holidays for Many in Clermont County

Holiday Elves Help Needy Seniors

By: Sharon Brumagem, Clermont Seniors

The economy may be tight, but area businesses, families, organizations, churches, and individuals are very generous, according to the results of this year's Adopt-A-Senior program, sponsored by Clermont Senior Services.

More than 200 donors filled the wish lists of more than 275 agency senior customers, along with donating more than \$1,000 in gift cards and nearly \$3,500 in cash. The home care pantry is stocked with enough laundry needs and cleaning supplies to keep customers' clothes and homes clean and neat for the next few months.

"Once again, the county and surrounding communities pulled together to provide much needed gifts for seniors," says Volunteer Coordinator Sharon Brumagem. "From county employees to school children, the giving spirit was overwhelming."

Callers with quivering, thankful voices and cards are pouring into the agency from grateful senior citizens. One man said the flashlight and battery operated

lantern he received were so valuable he was thinking about putting them in his will. One woman expressed delight in receiving a gift bag for her kitty companion; another said the greeting cards and stamps came at a good time and she was planning to use her gift card to purchase medicine. A woman who received a new stove from last year's funds commented how that practical gift has added joy to her life by allowing her to bake special treats for her friends and neighbors who assist her around the house.

Community Toy Chest Meets Holiday Goals

"The holidays were definitely a bit brighter for hundreds of local foster children," said Sanna Gast, organizer of the Clermont County Community Toy Chest. "I would like to thank the many individuals, businesses, church groups, and county agencies that purchased gifts to be distributed to the 315 children who are in the care of the Clermont County Department of Job and Family Services."

"While we target the drive to the holiday season, monetary donations



Sanna Gast with some of the items collected for foster children in the county's care during the holiday season

and gifts are used year round for birthdays, the first day of school, graduation, and other milestones in a child's life," said Gast. "The children in foster care are going through a difficult period in their lives and these gifts can help make them feel a little better. I can't describe how excited they are to receive these items. There are so many tears and smiles."

If you are interested in making a donation to the Community Toy Chest, contact Sanna Gast at Clermont County Children's Protective Services at (513) 732-7264. Monetary donations (checks only) can be mailed to: Community Toy Chest, 2400 Clermont Center Drive, Suite 206C, Batavia, Ohio 45103.

New Communications Center Chief Thrives on being "Busy"

"It's busy, but I love it," said John Kiskaden, the new Clermont County 9-1-1 Communications Center Manager. Kiskaden previously served as the supervisor of the 9-1-1 Communications Center in Union Township. After only a few days on the job, Kiskaden is thriving on the additional activity and the challenges that arise. "In November, the county



John Kiskaden, on the job, at the Clermont County 9-1-1 Communications Center

received over 4,799 9-1-1 emergency calls; in my previous position we had only a quarter of the call volume," he said.

All told, Kiskaden has over 30 years experience in law enforcement and emergency dispatch services. At one point in his career, he served as a deputy sheriff.

"I enjoy the challenges this position provides," he said. "While I learn the intricacies of this system, I am focused on my number one goal, which is to develop a better relationship between the communications center and the people we serve, from citizens to emergency responders."



Operation Lifesaver Campaign Stresses Track Safety

Operation Lifesaver, the nonprofit rail safety education group, is launching a radio public service awareness campaign reminding Ohioans to use common sense around railroad tracks. The Common Sense campaign, which begins in January, is aimed at 18 to 34-year-olds, the group most likely to be involved in railroad related pedestrian casualties, according to national statistics.



"Trains can't stop quickly because of their size and weight, so it is critical that people look both ways before crossing railroad tracks at designated crossings, and stay off and away from train tracks everywhere else," said Shel Senek, Ohio Operation Lifesaver State Coordinator.

Federal statistics show that 15 people were killed in Ohio while trespassing on train tracks last year; an additional 14 pedestrians were injured while

on the tracks in 2008. Two high school students in the Columbus and Toledo metro areas were tragically killed in incidents last month.

For more information about the campaign, visit the Web site www.commonsenseuseit.com.

January Commissioner Sessions

Wed. January 6	1 p.m.
Mon. January 11	TBD
Wed. January 13	1 p.m.
Wed. January 20	2 p.m.
Mon. January 25	1 p.m.
Wed. January 27	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**



'Tis the Season to Treecycle!

Now that the holidays are over, make sure you treecycle; treecycling is the act of recycling your cut Christmas tree, so that it can be used as compost or mulch. "These trees contain valuable nutrients that can be used in many other capacities," said Clermont Office of Environmental Quality Director Paul Braasch. "The trees can get a second life after they are chipped (used for mulch and hiking trails), become a fish habitat, or are utilized for beachfront erosion or shoreline stabilization projects."

Locally, many communities and the Clermont County Park District are offering opportunities for you to treecycle. "Before you take your tree to a collection site or haul it to the curb for pick-up, make sure to remove all lights, tinsel, and decorations," added Braasch.

Among Clermont County recycling opportunities:

- Amelia: Curbside pick-up is available through January 4, 2010.
- Loveland: City residents can call Public Works Department for disposal drop off options, or call 683-0150, ext. 1439 for pick-up. Trees will be collected through January 8, 2010.
- Miami Township: Residents can bring trees to either Paxton Ramsey Park or Miami Meadows for chipping. Trees can be dropped off seven days a week during daylight hours through January 31, 2010. Call (513) 248-3728 with questions.
- Milford: Tree collection will be curbside every Wednesday in January. If you have any questions, please call Michael Haight at (513) 831-7018.
- Pierce Township: Township

residents can bring trees to the Pierce Township Hall anytime until January 31, 2010. The drop-off area will be in the parking lot closest to the ball fields and will be clearly marked.

- Stonelick Township: Stonelick Township residents can drop their trees at the Clermont County Fairgrounds near the horse barns through January 8, 2010. Signs will be posted. The drop off area will be roped off. Please call (513) 732-3299 with any questions.
- Union Township: Union Township residents can drop off trees behind the Service Department Complex, 4312 Glen Este-Withamsville Road. The drop-off days are January 1 through January 31, 2010. The Township will have someone at this location to assist residents Monday through Friday during this period and the drop-off area will be clearly marked. If you have any questions, please contact the Service Department at (513) 753-2221.
- Pattison Park, Clermont County Park District: County residents can drop off trees lakeside at Pattison Park, January 4 through January 15, 2010.

For a complete list of tree recycling opportunities in Clermont County, visit the Web site www.oeq.net.

New Year, New Laws

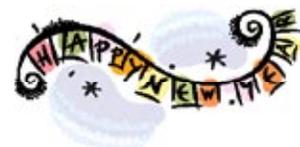
In 2010, Ohioans can be ticketed and fined \$100 for failing to turn on their lights when their windshield wipers are on; law enforcement has only been issuing warnings in the first six months



since the law took effect. The law is a secondary offense, meaning that motorists cannot be pulled over solely for failing to obey the new law. They must first be pulled over for something else, such as speeding, before they can be ticketed and fined for not having their headlights on.

Another new law goes into effect to make health insurance coverage more affordable for Ohioans with pre-existing conditions and chronic diseases. The new law caps the rates that insurance companies can charge during the open enrollment period. Ohio Department of Insurance Director Mary Jo Hudson says the change will enable about 52,000 more Ohioans to buy coverage.

Also, beginning July 1, parents can purchase insurance for their children, as long as they are younger than 28, through their employer. Current law prohibits children from being covered through their parents' employer policies once they turn 22.



Clermont Auditor “Making Your Tax Dollars Count”

When it comes to making your tax dollars count, the Clermont County Auditor’s Office is among the best in the state. The Ohio Auditor’s office has presented Clermont County with the “Making Your Tax Dollars Count” award for the fiscal year 2008 Clermont County audit; fewer than five percent of all Ohio government agencies are eligible for this award.

“It is an honor to recognize Clermont County for their commitment to strong financial accountability,” said Ohio Auditor of State Mary Taylor. “Congratulations on your hard work and for being trustworthy stewards of taxpayer dollars.”

To be considered for the award, a government agency must complete and submit a Comprehen-

sive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), there must be no findings or issues present in the audit report, and there must be no other financial concerns involving the entity.

“I am honored that our office has been selected for this prestigious award,” said Clermont County Auditor Linda Fraley. “I want to thank my staff for all their hard work and commitment to en-



Jennifer Hartley, Linda Fraley, Carl Enslen (from State Auditor’s Office) and Chuck Tilbury with the “Making Your Tax Dollars Count Award”

sure taxpayer dollars are properly spent.”

2010 Census Tour Comes to Clermont County

The *2010 Census Portrait of America Road Tour* will visit Clermont County on Saturday, January 16, 2010; citizens are invited to visit the high-tech trailer from 10 a.m. until noon at the Eastgate Mall, located at 4601 Eastgate Boulevard in Union Township. “This is a great opportunity for citizens to learn about the importance of the Census,” said Clermont Board of

Commissioners President Ed Humphrey.

“Census data has a major impact on our community. It is used to

reapportion congressional seats and directly impacts how \$400 billion in federal funding is distributed to state and local governments each year.”

During the visit, citizens will have an opportunity to talk with Census Bureau staff about the data collection process, see a sample of a 2010 Census form, and learn how the confidential information collected will be used to help plan for future medical facilities, housing, job training centers, schools, and transportation.

“There are only 10 questions on the Census

forms that will be delivered to homes locally and across America in March

2010. The forms should take 10 minutes or less to complete; your answers will have an impact on your community and your family for the next 10 years,” said Humphrey, who is part of the Clermont County Counts outreach effort aimed at educating the community about the 2010 Census. “The statistical information collected is also utilized to determine the need for additional social services, block grants, and other grant programs essential to many communities.”

For more information about the 2010 Census, visit the Web sites www.2010.ClermontCountyOhio.gov or www.census.Ohio.gov.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Clermont County

"The Right Place to Live"



Rich Apuzzo
proud resident of Miami Township

*"Clermont County has so much to offer citizens and businesses.
We have lots of shopping and great restaurants, plus the
opportunity to live in either a rural or suburban setting.
I'm proud to call Clermont County my home!"*

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

Call (513) 576-5013 for more information

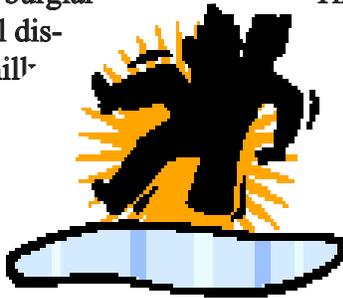
Whoops!!!

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

Prior to coming to Clermont County as the Chief Deputy, I was the Police Chief for Glendale, Ohio a suburb of Hamilton County. One snowy day, I was dispatched to a silent burglar alarm in the historical district; ice packed the hillside driveway to the beautiful 19th century home. When I arrived, I approached the owner and her child, home for the day, who explained that this was a false alarm and there was no problem or cause for concern. As I thanked the owner, whose explanation kept me from checking the entire inside and outside of the property on this, the coldest day of the year. I turned to make my way down the driveway to my car and my awaiting hot coffee and sugar filled doughnut. You can imagine my total surprise and excitement as my feet flew out from under me landing me flat on my back with keys, radio, flashlight, and the rest of my belt equipment flying in all directions. Falling on ice is embarrassing enough for anyone, however when it happens to the Chief of Police who is to ensure a certain degree of safety to a community, it is more than just a little embarrassing. Yes, the Chief of Police was lying flat out on a citizen's driveway.

The resident was kind enough not to laugh or to tell anyone other than the village Mayor, who was quick to rub it in

and continue telling the story for several years after the fact. Thanks Mayor !!! I suffered no serious injury other than my bruised ego.



This sideline story underscores the need, when the season changes, to be cautious of slick sidewalks and snow covered driveways. Every year thousands of people succumb to falls and broken bones which could be avoided with a little forethought. During the winter always wear warm shoes with good tread. Dress shoes or heels are not appropriate on an icy surface so keep an extra pair of gym shoes or walking shoes in your vehicle in case you are away from home when a storm breaks out. Slow down and take your time, hold on to railings or other solid structures if at all possible. Keep vehicles in a garage or on flat ground when parking at home. Watch your elderly friends and relatives during snowy and icy weather and make sure they only venture outdoors with someone to aid and assist them.

Just a few precautions can keep you vertical and to avoid serious injury or, as in my case, serious embarrassment. Let's stay safe and enjoy the holidays and the rest of the winter season.

Can you predict the weather with a snowball?



According to the *Old Farmers Almanac*, there is a belief that dry snowflakes mean that the atmosphere is moderately cold, while damp flakes mean that temperatures are on the rise. From this observation, comes this weather lore

Cut a snowball in half: wet center means rain; dry center can only be melted by the sun.

What about the size of snowflakes? The size doesn't seem to really foretell anything about the weather, however it's interesting to note that no one really seems to know how big a snowflake can get. Snowflakes are actually collections of many snow crystals. On average, a snowflake is usually less than one-half inch across; however, under certain weather conditions, snowflakes can be much larger, close to two inches across.

Want more snow knowledge? Check out the Web site www.FarmersAlmanac.com



Drug Free Coalition of Clermont County Responds to Monitoring the Future Survey

By: Lee Ann Watson, Ph.D., C.R.C., L.P.C.; Mental Health and Recovery Board

The 2009 Monitoring the Future Survey, released Monday by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the University of Michigan, showed that while there were slight decreases in the use of cocaine and methamphetamine among youth, marijuana and prescription drug abuse showed no signs of slowing down. In fact, marijuana use among adolescents increased gradually over the past two years after years of declining use; and past year rates of Vicodin and OxyContin abuse increased during the last 5 years among 10th graders and remained unchanged among 8th and 12th graders.

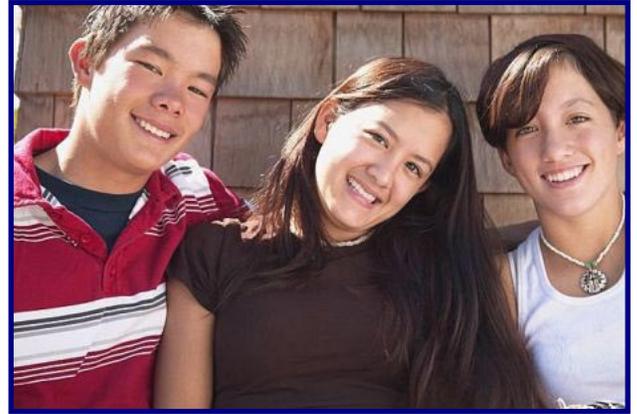
Several drugs showed signs of increasing with attitudes softening for drugs such as marijuana, ecstasy, inhalants, and LSD. For example, the percentage of 8th graders who view occasional marijuana use as potentially harmful dropped to 44 percent, compared to 48 percent last year. In addition, the perception of "great risk" associated with marijuana use declined among 8th and 10th graders.



marijuana use can cause," said Lee Ann Watson, Ph.D., Associate Director of the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board and Vice Chair of the Drug Free Coalition of Clermont County. "Beliefs and attitudes about these drugs are going in the wrong direction. The decreases of perception of harm around marijuana and inhalants are especially concerning, as that often leads to an increase in use."

"The Drug Free Coalition of Clermont County plays a critical role in addressing drug abuse in Clermont County and in implementing strategies to change attitudes and availability. More young people need to get the message that these drugs are harmful if we are to reverse these trends, but our coalition can't do it alone. We need the help of everyone in the community."

The Drug Free Coalition of Clermont County is a volunteer organization that provides education to adults and youth of all ages regarding the impact of substance use and abuse. The Coalition consists of parents, youth, law enforcement agencies, schools, government officials, health providers, mental health and substance abuse treatment providers. The Clermont County Coalition is part of the larger Coalition for a Drug Free Greater



Cincinnati, and promotes various drug free events such as Red Ribbon Week, Parents Who Host, Lose the Most, and grants to area High Schools for after-prom activities. To join our Coalition, please contact Lee Ann Watson at (513) 732-5400.

More information on the Monitoring The Future Survey is available at www.cadca.org.

Information is available for parents when it comes to talking with your kids about drugs, alcohol, and tobacco use. Visit the Web site www.drugfree.org for tips you can use to make sure your kids know the dangers associated with substance abuse.

**A HAPPY
NEW YEAR**



January Clermont Park Events

By: Keith Robinson, Park District

Winter Bird Count

Saturday, January 9, 8:30 a.m. – noon
Kelley Nature Preserve, Sycamore Park
Crooked Run Nature Preserve

Join the Park District staff and volunteers as we conduct our annual census of our local bird residents. Beginners and advanced birders are welcome. Pre-registration is required; call (513) 876-9013 to sign up.



Winter Hike

Saturday, January 23, 10 a.m. –
Sycamore Park

Beat the winter blues by getting outside and enjoying the crisp winter air. We'll hike and explore all of the trails on the new James L. and Frances Wilson Nature Preserve.

Owl Prowl

Friday, January 29, 6 p.m. – Crooked Run Nature Preserve

Winter is an excellent time to go "owling." Walk with a naturalist as we try to lure in one of these nocturnal wonders. Meet at the visitor center.

Duck Decoy Carving Classes

On Saturday afternoons in January, you will find Wayne McClain with the Clermont Park District leading duck decoy carving classes at the Chilo Lock #34 Park.

Wayne has been carving these creations out of wood for over 30 years. He says if you like art, you will probably enjoy decoy carving!



Mocktails 2009

By: Martha Enriquez, Clermont Safe Communities

The fifth annual **Mocktails** event, held Tuesday, December 8, 2009, brings attention to a serious subject. Safe Communities, a program of the Clermont County Health District, works with many local groups to reduce traffic fatalities in Clermont County. The **Mocktails** event is an effort to reduce the incidence of drinking and driving around the holidays. A mocktail is a non-alcoholic cocktail that is safe to serve to all ages at parties and gatherings.

Eleven different agencies and groups participated in the competition by bringing a mocktail to sample and creating a display about drinking and driving.

The most prestigious award, the **"Toast of the County"** went to the Nursing Division of the Clermont County Health District with the *Peppermint Patty*. This award is a large trophy that circulates each year to the new winner. The **"Toast of the County"** was selected by guest judges Sheriff Tim

Rodenberg, Lt. Randy McElfresh of the Ohio State Patrol, and Municipal Court Judge Tony Brock.

This year, the award for the best display went to the Clermont County Health District with their creative display of

"The Swinery" and their samples of *Swine Wine*. In the category of best drinking and driving prevention message, there was a tie between Clermont Mercy Hospital with *Monkeys Jungle Juice* and the Clermont County Libraries with *The Marga-Read-a*.

A special part of the event was the performance of a song, called "One Day at a Time" written by Miami Township resident Bob Hovey. Martha Enriquez, coordinator of Safe Communities, also gave some updates on alcohol-related crashes. "Although this is a very fun event, the reason we do this is not fun. It is not fun to cause or be a victim of an impaired driving crash. Notice I did not use the word 'accident.' Impaired driving is not an accident. It is a conscious choice and can be pre-



Martha Enriquez presents Tanya Brown (General Health District) with the Toast of the County trophy

vented," stated Enriquez.

The good news is that in the US, Ohio, and in Clermont County, numbers for drunk driving are down. In the past 10 years, Clermont County has dropped from an all time high of 435 crashes to 227, almost half of that in 2008. Only 10 years ago there were 12 people killed in our county and nearly 400 injured. Last year we had 8 deaths and just over 140 injured. "I like to think that people are smarter and more educated about their choices, cars are safer and our law enforcement continues to be diligent," said Enriquez. "But the fact remains that one death is one too many. Although these numbers show an improvement, impaired driving is still a huge problem and we all must work together to continue to reduce this senseless behavior."



Judges for the event enjoyed their assignment! Pictured above: Lt. Randy McElfresh, Sheriff Tim Rodenberg, and Judge Tony Brock

Toast the new year with these alcohol-free options.....

The Marga-read-a

Clermont County Public Library

¼ cup coconut cream
1 cup apple juice
1 ¼ cup cranberry juice
Lime juice to taste
1 Tbsp. grenadine

Swine Wine

General Health District (Permit
Central location)

12 oz. frozen pink lemonade concentrate
26 oz. white grape juice
3 cups Sprite
In a large pitcher, combine all ingredients and stir. Refrigerate for one hour. Serve chilled.

The Grinch

Auditor's Office

2 oz. mint chocolate chip ice cream
1 oz. coconut cream
Large handful of crushed ice
2 oz. half and half
Chocolate syrup
Rim a martini glass with your favorite chocolate syrup. On a small plate, first pour 1-2 ounces of the syrup. Dab the rim of the glass into the liquid while turning the glass so that only the outer edge is covered. Combine the rest of the ingredients in a blender, and blend until smooth. Pour into your rimmed glass and enjoy!

Hotty Toddy

Municipal Court/DUI Court

7 oz. hot or cold tea
1 tsp. lemon juice
1 Tbsp. honey

¼ tsp. ground cinnamon
¼ tsp. ground cloves
¼ tsp. grated nutmeg
Lemon wedge and cinnamon stick for garnish
In a glass, pour the honey, lemon, and spices. Add tea and stir briskly. Garnish with lemon wedge and cinnamon stick.

Buckeye Buzz

OSU Extension-Clermont

1 Tbsp. Reese's chocolate peanut butter syrup
1 cup coffee
2 cups low fat chocolate milk
Mix hot coffee with syrup until dissolved. Add chocolate milk. Serve chilled or over ice. Garnish with mini buckeyes.

Cranberry Coconut Cream Cocktail

Mental Health and Recovery Board

5 parts cranberry juice
4 parts apple juice
1 part coconut cream
1 part coconut almond ice cream
2 parts fresh lime juice
2 dashes grenadine
Combine all ingredients in a blender with cracked ice and blend until smooth.

Peppermint Patty

General Health District Nursing
Division

2 Tbsp. milk
4 Tbsp. peppermint ice cream
2 Tbsp. dark chocolate syrup
Blend all ingredients together. Add milk to desired consistency. Garnish with mini peppermint patties.

The Front Loader

Rumpke

½ cup cherry juice from concentrate
½ cup ginger ale
Fresh cherries and other fruits for garnish
Mix ginger ale into the juice slowly in a blender. Add ice and garnish if desired.

Monkey's Jungle Juice

Clermont Mercy Hospital

2 bananas, sliced
1 cup vanilla ice cream
½ tsp. vanilla extract
½ cup orange juice
1 cup milk
In a blender, mix banana and vanilla ice cream. Pour in vanilla extract, orange juice, and milk. Puree until smooth. Serve in a tall glass.

EMS Stinger

Recorder's Office

¼ cup cranberry juice
¼ cup orange juice
½ cup ginger ale
1 tsp. non-alcoholic grenadine

Crantastic

WIC

Ice
½ cup cranberry juice
4 – 5 cranberries
1 cup Sprite (or other lemon-lime soda)
Put ice in glass; pour in Sprite. Add cranberry juice and cranberries



NEWS Clermont County Permit Central

A Roof Covered in Snow Could be Dangerous

By: Sharman Hensley, Permit Central

Buildings and their roof structures that are reviewed and permitted by the building department, are designed to meet the snow load requirement of the Ohio Building Code and Residential Code of Ohio respectively. Snow loads are building design factors, included with the design of the building structures, which are intended to account for the weight of snow on a building's structural roof system.

With the upcoming winter weather season approaching, all homeowners should be aware that heavy snow accumulations could pose a potential problem overloading roofs. In particular, un-heated buildings (like storage buildings, roofs over decks, and shed roofs), buildings with flat roofs, and buildings with changes in elevation (which are vulnerable to snow drifting and thus heavier snow loading) are susceptible to overloading. Also, it is well known that



snow that accumulates and remains on a roof over a prolonged period of time tends to both compact and change into a heavier crystalline form. With the

accumulation of additional snow, overloading and even failure of the supporting roof structure is possible.

Homeowners should ensure that roofs are monitored during periods of heavy snow accumulations and repeated snow falls. Remember that greater snow accumulations may occur from one storm than from another, due to changes in wind velocity and direction.

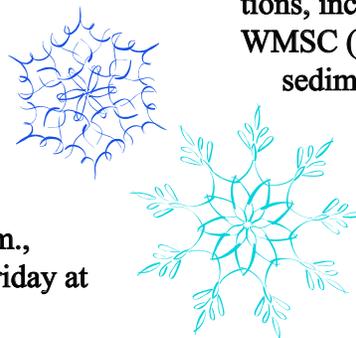
For more information, visit the Web site www.Permit.ClermontCountyOhio.gov; we can be reached by telephone between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at (513) 732-7213.

How much does snow weigh?

Ken Hellevang from the University of North Dakota says, "The weight of snow varies greatly. Light fluffy snow may only weigh about seven pounds per cubic foot. More average snow may weigh 15 pounds per cubic foot and drifted compacted snow may weigh 20 pounds or more..."

The Clermont County Building Inspection Department (part of Permit Central) is certified by the State of Ohio to regulate residential and commercial construction in Clermont County and commercial construction in Brown County. The department regulates state building codes and various other county regulations, including the floodplain, WMSC (water management and sediment control) and airport zoning.

Permit Central is located at 2275 Bauer Road in Batavia.

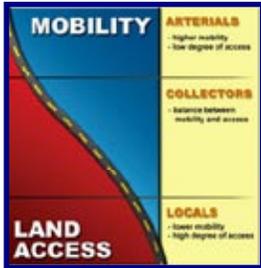


Functional Classification of Roads

Why is it important?

By: Andy Johns, Community Planning and Development

In the fall of 2009, the Clermont County Planning Commission recognized that the county's official thoroughfare plan, Access Clermont, needed to be updated in terms of functional class.



Functional classification is the grouping of roads, streets, and highways

in a hierarchy based on the type of service they provide. Generally, streets and highways perform two types of service; they provide either traffic mobility or land access. At the top are arterials, including highways and

interstates; they include those roadways emphasizing a high level of mobility for the through movement of traffic. At the bottom are local roads; their primary function is to provide land access.

In November, the Clermont County Planning Commission took action to update the plan by linking Access Clermont with the *functional class* information managed and enforced by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). This link ensured that information related to *functional class* will remain current.

Historically, one of the most important uses of *functional classifica-*



tion has been to identify those streets and roads that are eligible for federal funds. In addition, these classifications are used as a basis for statewide system needs and fiscal studies. Access Clermont now provides consistency with ODOT and puts us in a better position to plan our roadway infrastructure needs.

Grants Propel Local Improvement Projects

By: Annette Decatur and Jim Taylor, Community Planning and Development

At the close of 2009, the Clermont County grant program saw the completion and/or beginnings of many projects under the various grants administered by the Department of Community Planning and Development.

Highlighting the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) accomplishments for the fiscal year 2008 program (completed in 2009), was the construction of sidewalks along North Eighth Street and West Main Street in the Village of Williamsburg. The new sidewalks remove various hazards to pedestrians and vehicular traffic along the two streets. The sidewalk connects a senior housing project on



View of West Main Street/SR 133

North Eighth Street to a local business on State Route 133.

Before the construction of the sidewalk, citizens had to walk along West Main Street (State Route 133) to visit a local store; that created a safety haz-

ard to the individuals and vehicles using the street. The sidewalk construction removes that safety hazard.

The purpose of grants, like CDBG, is to assist local communities in solving such safety hazards, and to make improvements to the community.

For more information about CDBG and other projects underway in local communities, visit the Web site www.planning.ClermontCountyOhio.gov. You can also contact the Community and Planning Development, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at (513) 732-7213.

Pajama Storytime

Tuesday, January 12, 7 p.m. – Milford-Miami Township Branch

Wear your pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed toy for a special pajama storytime. Enjoy bedtime stories and a craft. For more information or to register, call (513) 248-0700.



My Ambulance Education

Monday, January 25, 6:30 p.m.

Bethel Branch

Join the library for a visit from Dr.

Joseph F. Clark, PhD, author of “My Ambulance Education – Life and Death on the Streets of the City,” a testament to challenges that EMS personnel everywhere face daily. Dr. Clark is a scientist and researcher at the University of Cincinnati; copies of his book will be available for purchase. For more information or to register, call (513) 734-2619.



Family Fun Night

Monday, January 11, 7 p.m. – Goshen Branch

Bring the entire family for stories, games, and make crafts to take home. For more information or to register, call (513) 722-1221.

Bookends

Monday, January 11, 1 p.m. – New Richmond Branch

Interested adults are invited for the monthly book discussion group. This month’s title is “City of Refuge” by Tom Piazza. For more information, call (513) 553-0570.

Resume and Cover Letter Assistance

During the month of January by appointment – Amelia Branch

Get help with your resume or cover letter, and find out which type of resume is best for you. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (513) 752-5580.



Wednesday at the Movies

Wednesday, January 22, 2 p.m. – Batavia Branch

All interested adults are invited to join the monthly movie discussion group. This month’s title is “Gigante” directed by Adrian Biniez. For more information, call the library at (513) 732-2128.

Anime Club

Monday, January 25, 6 p.m. – Owensville Branch

Interested teens are invited to watch anime films and offer a critique. For more information or to register, call (513) 732-6084.



Clermont County has its own You Tube channel.

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

In the Kitchen with Margaret

By: Margaret Jenkins, OSU Extension-Clermont

Cheesy Broccoli Soup

Makes 4 3/4 cup servings

Ingredients:

1/4 cup water
2 to 2.5 cups frozen chopped broccoli
3 Tablespoons flour
1/4 teaspoon onion powder or garlic powder
1/4 teaspoon black pepper

3 Tablespoons margarine
2 cups nonfat milk
4 slices (3 ounces) American cheese
*Option: 6 to 8 drops hot pepper sauce
(such as Tabasco)*



Preparation:

1. Heat water to boiling in 3 quart saucepan. Add broccoli. Cover and cook for 2 minutes.
2. Pour broccoli onto a dinner plate or cutting board (water will have cooked away); set aside.



3. In small bowl, combine flour, onion or garlic powder, and pepper.
4. Add margarine to saucepan and melt over medium heat. Add flour mixture and stir with whisk or fork until well mixed.
5. Gradually stir in milk, stirring constantly with whisk to keep sauce smooth. Cook over medium heat, stirring or whisking a few times, until thick and bubbly, about 4 to 5 minutes. Meanwhile, cut broccoli into pieces.
6. Add broccoli to sauce and turn heat to low. Add cheese slices. Cook and stir about 2 minutes or until cheese melts. Serve immediately. If desired, add hot sauce to taste.

Variations:

Use frozen mixed vegetables, frozen peas, or chopped cooked potatoes instead of broccoli.

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