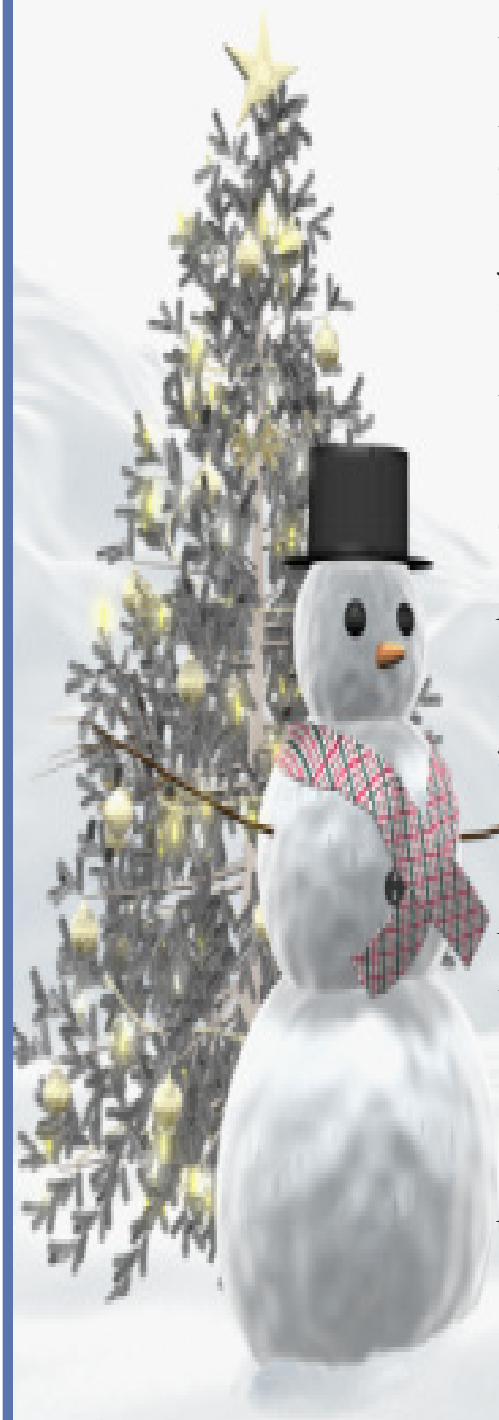
On the Move

a newsletter for citizens
December 2006

www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov

Commissioners: Mary Walker, Bob Proud, and Scott Croswell



Dear Fellow Residents,

It is hard to believe that the holiday season is already upon us and soon we will be saying goodbye to 2006 and hello to 2007! We sincerely hope that this has been a good year for you and your family and that your interaction with county government has been a positive experience.

In 2007, we pledge to work even harder in making Clermont County a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Our economic development efforts will continue, along with a targeted approach to improve services and transportation.

As we gather with family and friends to celebrate the excitement of this holiday season, let's pause to enjoy the special twinkle in a child's eye and the laughter of a grandparent spending time with those they love. These are truly the blessings of the season that can be unwrapped at Christmas and then enjoyed all year long.

May the spirit of the season be with you throughout the year. Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2007!

The Board of Clermont County Commissioners,

Mary Walker *Bob Proud* *Scott Croswell*

Clermont County 4-H Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

By: Kate Gross, OSU Extension

On November 11, 2006 over 75 4-H volunteers gathered at the Clermont County Fairgrounds for their annual recognition banquet.

Lucinda Miller, Ohio 4-H specialist, was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening and Clermont County historian Rick Crawford was the featured speaker discussing some fascinating facts about county history.

Youth speakers talked about the different camps they have attended and various learning experiences derived from Sea Camp, Conservation Camp, and Leadership Camp.

Volunteers were recognized for their work with the 4-H Committee, 4-H Horse Committee, 4-H Camp, Shooting Sports, Dog Program, Junior Fair, CarTeens, Junior Leader program, and the 4-H Outpost.

It was a wonderful evening honoring volunteers for their commitment and dedication to our 4-H program.

Voris and Rodenberg Honored for Contributions to Child Welfare

Clermont County Domestic Relations Court Judge Michael J. Voris was recently honored with an Excellence Award as Judge of the Year by the Ohio Child Support Enforcement (CSE) Directors Association. This award is presented to a county judge who has strengthened the child support program by implementing effective measures in the judicial system.

Clermont County Sheriff A. J. Rodenberg was also honored with an Excellence Award by the Ohio CSE Directors Association during the awards ceremony, recognized as Child Support Partner of the Year. Sheriff Rodenberg received this honor as a result of his commitment to the child support program.

Judge Voris and Sheriff Rodenberg accepted their awards during a recent ceremony in Newark, Ohio held in conjunction with the Ohio CSE Directors Association Second Annual Partners Conference "Connecting for Children."

Holiday Trivia...

During the holiday season, more than 1.76 billion candy canes are made! The candy has been around for centuries, but the red stripes weren't added until around 1900.

December Commissioner Sessions

Tuesday, Dec. 5	1 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 6	1 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 15	1 p.m.

All regular sessions are held in the third floor session room of the Clermont County Administration Building, 101 East Main Street in Batavia, Ohio. For agenda information, contact the BCC offices at (513) 732-7300.

Volunteers Needed to Speak for Abused and Neglected Children

By: Jenifer Fox-Gerrits

As you may already know, CASA for Clermont Kids! trains community volunteers to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in Clermont County as Guardians Ad Litem or GALs. What you may not know is that we are only able to offer training to eligible candidates three times per year. Our next training is scheduled to start on January 10, 2007.

Over 350 abused and neglected children in Clermont County need someone to be their voice in the courtroom. Our goal is to train enough volunteers to represent every one of these children. To ensure that the best interests of the children we work with are being served, we use a multi-step process to carefully screen and fully prepare all of our volunteers.

The first step in becoming an active volunteer with our organization is to complete an application form and return it to our office. Once it is received, we will contact you to schedule an interview. After your interview, reference request forms will be mailed to the references you listed on your application form.

After the initial phase of the screening process is completed, the most highly qualified volunteer candidates are invited to participate in a 40-hour pre-service training. The training is designed to provide the volunteer with all of the information they need to know to begin working as an effective CASA/GAL. During this phase of the screening process, volunteers will be fingerprinted and a background check will be completed.

Upon successful completion of training, the volunteer is ready to be sworn in as a representative of the Clermont County Juvenile Court. We realize this process is lengthy and calls for a significant commitment on the part of our volunteers. If you are ready and willing to make that commitment, call 513-735-SAFE to request an application form or download the form from our website at www.casaforclermontkids.org. Send your completed form to Jenifer via fax at 513-735-7283 or mail it to her at 313 East Main Street, Batavia Ohio, 45103.

Holiday Sponsors Needed

CASA For Clermont Kids! is looking for sponsors to provide Christmas gifts for approximately 60 children. These children, between the ages of newborn and 18, will be spending this holiday season in foster homes, removed by the court system as a result of abuse or neglect.

"You can choose to sponsor either a boy or a girl," said CASA Executive Director Karey Ringland. "Our goal is to have all of the unwrapped gifts in our office by December 8, 2006. They will then be wrapped and given to foster parents for delivery on Christmas morning."

For additional information about the CASA For Clermont Kids! holiday sponsorships, please call (513) 735-7233.

Karey Ringland displays some of the items donated for needy children.

Holiday Trivia...

The poinsettia was named after Joel Poinsett, a U.S. ambassador to Mexico, who introduced the plant to this country in 1829.

Gift Idea for Fido.....a Dog License!

By: Cindy White, Auditor's Office

Clermont County Auditor Linda Fraley has announced that dog and kennel licenses will go on sale Friday, December 1, 2006. The fee is $14 for a dog license and $50 for a kennel license.

There are many different ways to purchase or renew your dog license. You can complete the renewal card or print an application from our Web site and mail with a self addressed stamped envelope and check to Clermont County Auditor – Dog License, 101 E. Main Street, Batavia, Ohio 45103. One new feature for this year is the ability to purchase dog licenses online using credit card or e-check. You can also renew licenses online; visit our Web site at ***www.ClermontAuditor.org***. You can also visit one of our vendor locations to purchase and renew licenses. A complete list of vendors is available on our Web site.

Dog licensing is beneficial because it is an excellent way to trace a dog should it ever become missing, or if you find a lost dog. To trace a dog you can call the Auditor's Office or the Clermont County Animal Shelter during regular business hours or you can do a search at the Web site located at ***www.ClermontAuditor.org*** under the dog license search. You will need to enter the license number and the year the license was issued.

The last day to purchase dog licenses without penalty is January 31, 2007. Kennel licenses are only available at the Auditor's Office. If you have additional questions, contact the Auditor's Office at 732-7150.

Winter Weather Preparedness Can Save Lives

By: Barb Davis, DPSS

While winter storms can strike quickly and without warning, there are many things you can do to prepare yourself and your family. Take the time to prepare now by having extra blankets on hand and making sure that you and your loved ones have warm coats, hats, gloves or mittens, and water-resistant boots. Assemble an emergency supplies kit for your home in case it is not safe to go out during a storm. Be sure to include bottled water (at least one gallon per person per day), non-perishable food, and a can opener. The kit should also include a battery powered NOAA alert radio, flashlight, extra batteries, and warm clothing.

Assemble an emergency supplies kit for your car too and have the vehicle winterized before storm season. If experts indicate severe weather could be headed your way, stay tuned to local radio and TV stations for updated information on conditions. Exposure to cold can cause serious injury such as frostbite and hypothermia.

Know the difference between a winter storm watch and a winter storm warning. A storm WATCH means that winter weather is possible in your area. A storm WARNING means a winter storm is headed your way. A blizzard warning indicates strong winds, blinding wind-driven snow, and dangerous wind chills are expected and you should seek shelter immediately.

For additional information on Winter Safety Tips, contact the Clermont County Emergency Management Agency at (513) 732-7661.

Holiday Trivia...

During the Christmas season, Visa cards are used an average of 5,340 times every minute in the United States!

Clermont County Public Library

By: Tammy Craig, Library

Family Fun Night
Tuesday, December 12, 7 p.m.
Goshen Branch
Families are invited for stories, crafts, hands-on-activities, and playing. Children must be accompanied by a parent. Call 722-1221.

Holiday Open House
Tuesday, December 12, 6-8 p.m.
Milford-Miami Twp. Branch
Celebrate holidays around the world with crafts, food, and fun. Join the Friends of the Library for a holiday book sale. Call 248-0700.

Anime Club
Thursday, December 14, 6 p.m.
Milford-Miami Township Branch
Teens can help review the latest titles in a round table discussion, and let the library know what they think. For more information or to register for the program. Call 248-0700.

Anime Club
Monday, December 11, 6 p.m.
Owensville Branch
Teens are invited to review the latest anime titles and share opinions with the library. Snacks will be included. Call 732-6084.

Teen Book Discussion
Monday, December 18, 7-8 p.m.
Union Township Branch
*Get your reserved copy of **T**he Giver by Lois Lowry to discuss over snacks. Call 528-1744.*

Create a candy-decorated gingerbread house at the library during the month of December!

Make a Gingerbread House

What could be a sweeter centerpiece during the holidays than a homemade gingerbread house? Creating gingerbread houses is not as difficult as it might appear and it is a great way for children to get involved in holiday activities. You can make gingerbread or simply use graham crackers as the delicious foundation.

Throughout the month of December, the Clermont County Public Library is inviting families to create and decorate their own gingerbread house in time for the holidays. All supplies will be provided by the library during these classes, but space is limited and you must call the library to register for the sessions in advance.

Branch Schedules for Gingerbread Houses –

Amelia - Saturday, December 2, 11 a.m. & 3 p.m.
Williamsburg - Saturday, December 2, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Goshen - Saturday, December 2, 2 p.m.
Batavia - Monday, December 4, 7 p.m.
Owensville - Saturday, December 9, 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.
Union Township - Saturday, December 9, 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Milford-Miami Township - Wednesday, Dec. 13, 6 p.m., and Saturday, December 16 at 1 p.m.

New Home for Clermont Nursing Division

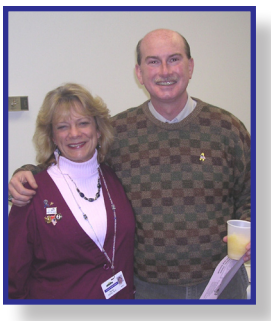
By: Carol Kisner, Health District

The Nursing Division of the Clermont County General Health District held an open house on November 21 to dedicate their new office. The new address is 2400 Clermont Center Drive, Suite 200, located in the Medical Social Services Building in Batavia. The new office has more space and additional clinic rooms to better serve the public. The Nursing Division, which includes WIC (Women, Infants and Children), consists of 26 nurses, dieticians and clerical staff. The Nursing Division has become the largest division of the Health District.

Marty Lambert presents Deena Elliott with a plaque commemorating the occasion

This office expansion will enable the Nursing Division and WIC to see more clients than the 1000-1500 currently seen each month through the services they provide. Many services are offered through the Nursing Division which include: WIC, adult and childhood immunizations, international travel immunizations, flu clinics, vision screenings for children, and Prevent Blindness of Ohio for adults, hearing screenings for children, communicable disease, including TB, Safe Communities, Senior Safety, Bureau of Children with Medical Handicaps, Help Me Grow, Newborn Home Visiting, and public health nurse services.

Marty Lambert, Commissioner of the Health District, spoke at the open house thanking those who made the move to this new office possible. Special thanks were given to the Clermont County Commissioners and Facilities Maintenance.



Commisioner Bob Proud visits with Deena Elliott during the open house

Deena Elliott, Director of Nursing, thanked those who attended the open house and her staff.

For additional information regarding the programs and services at the Nursing Division and other divisions of the Health District, visit the website at ***www.ClermontHealthDistrict.org***.

*****Photo's provided by Jackie Lindner**

Clermont Citizens Corps Wants You!

When a tornado, flood, or other type of disaster occurs, a timely and coordinated response is critical to assist communities struggling with such a disaster. Trained volunteers are needed for recovery efforts. If you would like to help, the Clermont County Citizen Corps is offering a free training opportunity on Saturday, March 10, 2007 at the Clermont County Fairgrounds in Owensville.

"Training opportunities will include how to set-up and staff a volunteer center and how to match volunteers to the needs of professional responders," said Clermont Emergency Management Agency Director Beth Nevel. "With a better trained volunteer base we will be better prepared to respond to disasters, resulting in safer, stronger, and disaster resistant communities."

For more information about the Clermont County Citizen Corps or to register for the free Disaster Response Training, visit their Web site at ***www.ClermontCitizenCorps.org*** or call (513) 732-7070.

Holiday Trivia...

Christmas trees remove dust, pollen and CO2 from the air as they grow. Each acre of trees provides oxygen requirements for 18 people.

Coming to A Holiday Party Near You…Mocktails!

By: Martha Enriquez, Health District

Mocktails? What are you talking about? Let me explain. A Mocktail is exactly what it sounds like, a non-alcoholic cocktail. During the holiday season, it is especially important to encourage party-goers not to drink and drive. Drinking and driving causes hundreds of crashes each year in Clermont County, some with fatal results. By offering a Mocktail, we can ensure that our party guests will be safe, while still enjoying a tasty drink.

Alcohol is a factor in approximately 5 percent of all crashes in Clermont County. In 2005, five people were killed locally in alcohol related crashes. Drinking and driving can be avoided. It is a choice; we must encourage better choices.

Clermont County Safe Communities and Mercy Hospital Clermont will be celebrating Mocktails in a big way on December 7, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the Mercy Hospital lobby. A Mocktails contest between hospital departments will be fun for everyone while sending a serious message. A dozen departments are expected to invent their own Mocktail this year and offer samples. A panel of local officials will select the "Judges Choice", while visitors will be able to vote for the "Best Mocktail", "Most Creative Display" and "Best Drinking and Driving Prevention Message". A recipe booklet of the mocktails will be available, as well as appetizers provided by Eastgate Chick-Fil-A.

The public is invited to attend the Mocktails event. Contact Martha Enriquez at 735-8409 for more information.

2006 Christmas Tree Recycling Opportunities

Amelia: Curbside pick-up is available on December 29, 2006, and January 2, 5, and 10, 2007. Trees must be cleared of all decorations.

Batavia: Batavia Village residents can place trees on the curbside any time during the first week of January 2007 for chipping and removal by Village maintenance crews. Trees that are not completely clear of decorations will not be taken.

Loveland: City residents can bring trees to the Public Works Department for disposal, or call 683-0150, ext. 1439 for pick-up. Trees will be accepted from December 26, 2006 through January 10, 2007.

Miami Township: Residents can bring Christmas trees cleared of all decorations to either Paxton Ramsey Park or Miami Meadows for chipping. Trees can be dropped off seven days a week during daylight hours from December 26, 2006 through January 31, 2007. Call (513) 248-3728 with questions.

Milford: Christmas tree collection will be held every Wednesday in January, 2007. Please rid the tree of all lights, tinsel, and decorations, and place it at the curb. Trees not meeting the above requirements will be left at the curb and not collected. If you have any questions, please call Michael Haight at (513) 831-7018.

Owensville: The Clermont County Park District will accept trees at Pattison Park, 2227 U.S. Route 50 from January 2 through January 14, 2007. The site will be unattended. Trees free of decorations should be dropped off near the picnic shelter on the south side of U.S. 50.

Pierce Township: Township residents can bring trees to the Pierce Township Hall anytime after Christmas until January 31, 2007. 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 that have been cleared of all decorations at the Clermont County Fairgrounds near the horse barns from December 26, 2006 through January 6, 2007. 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 14, 2007. The Township will have someone at this location to assist residents Monday through Saturday during this period. The trees must be cleared of all decorations. If you have any questions, please contact the Service Department at (513) 753-2221.

Holiday Trivia...

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

Second Chances

The Office of Public Information, in cooperation with the Clermont Animal Shelter, is profiling two animals each month on cable television and in this newsletter to draw attention to some of the special, wonderful animals waiting for a loving home and owner.

Sadie is a three-year-old German Shepherd mix. She has been spayed and would do well in a home with other dogs and cats, according to shelter staff. Sadie has a great personality and knows some commands on cue, like sit. The shelter thinks that Sadie was someone's pet and somehow got separated.

Rusty is an adorable orange tabby cat. He is neutered and approximately four-years-old. This cat is very affectionate and loves to be held and petted. Again, the shelter says he is very well cared for and was someone's pet in the Bethel-area when he became separated from his owner.

If you have room for either Sadie or Rusty, please call the Clermont County Animal Shelter today at (513) 732-8854.

Top 10 breeds in Clermont County (based on dog tags purchased in 2006)

1.	Labrador – 1,981	6.	Beagle – 790
2.	Mixed Breed – 1,641	7.	Golden Retriever – 770
3.	Labrador Mix – 1,390	8.	Boxer – 544
4.	German Shepherd – 805	9.	Beagle Mix – 522
5.	Shepherd Mix – 800	10.	Jack Russell - 489

Holiday Trivia...

The Greeks, after a large meal, wrapped bread around a piece of ginger, and ate it to ease indigestion. This gave rise to gingerbread.

Now available for adoption!

Buddy

Crystal

Jingles

Mistletoe

Clermont Animal Shelter

732-8854

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