



Clermont County On The Move

a newsletter for citizens

Commissioners: Bob Proud, Mary Walker, and Scott Crowell
December 2005

Winter Weather Can Spark Holiday Hazards

The winter holiday season is a time for celebration, and that means more cooking, lots of entertaining, and an increased risk of fire. State Fire Marshal Stephen K. Woltz is urging Ohio families to pay close attention to fire safety this holiday season. During the 2004 holiday season (November 20, 2004 through January 8, 2005), 15 people died in residential fires across Ohio. There were a total of 4,120 fires during that time period.

There are some things you can do to protect yourself and your family this holiday season:

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for a "fire resistant" label.
- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. Make sure the needles are soft and don't easily fall off. Cut about one inch off of the bottom of the trunk before putting the tree in the stand. Add water daily. Dry trees can quickly catch fire and burn in seconds.
- Do not block your exit door with your tree.
- Remove live trees from your home as soon as possible. Most Christmas tree fires occur on or after New Year's Day.

Cooking is the number one cause of fires in homes. Most residential fires occur between the hours of 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Every year in Ohio, 12

people lose their lives because of cooking-related fires and nearly 300 are injured.

- Do not leave cooking food unattended.
- Do not wear loose clothing while cooking.
- Do not attempt to move a pan of grease that is on fire. Put a lid on the pan

and turn off the heat source, or use an ABC fire extinguisher. Alert the household so evacuation procedures can begin.

For additional safety information, please contact the Ohio Emergency Management Agency at www.ema.ohio.gov.

Dear Fellow Residents,

We wanted to take a minute to thank you for allowing us to serve as your County Commissioners during 2005. It is our hope that your interactions with county government during the past year have been positive and productive.

During this holiday season, many of us will find time to share traditions and make memories with friends and family. Let us not forget about the brave young men and women of the armed forces who are so far from home at this special time of year. While they are away from home they remain close to our hearts.

We sincerely hope this has been a happy, healthy, and prosperous year for you and those you love. Best wishes to all for a wonderful 2006!

The Board of Clermont County Commissioners,

*Bob
Proud*



*Mary
Walker*



*Scott
Crowell*

Calling All Dog Owners

Clermont County Auditor Linda Fraley has announced that dog and kennel

licenses will go on sale Thursday, December 1, 2005. The fee is \$14 for a dog license and \$50 for

each kennel license. If a renewal is all you need, they can be ordered online at www.clermontauditor.org. A credit card is the required payment for online renewals.

In 2005, 18,270 dog licenses were issued in Clermont

County; dog licenses encompass the largest number of licenses sold.

If your pet is ever missing, a dog license tag provides the best way of notifying you if a pet is found. Once your dog has been assigned a license with his own distinctive tag



number, the number and information about your dog is permanently filed in Clermont County records.

The last day to purchase a license without a penalty is January 31, 2006. Kennel licenses are only available at the Auditor's office.

Top 10 Dog Breeds in Clermont County (based on dog licensing):

1. Labrador Retriever
2. Mixed Breed
3. Labrador Mix
4. Beagle
5. Shepherd Mix
6. German Shepherd
7. Golden Retriever
8. Beagle Mix
9. Jack Russell Terrier
10. Boxer

Dog licenses are available at multiple locations throughout the county. For more information, contact the Auditor's office at 732-7150.

December Commissioner Sessions



*Tuesday, December 6
1:00 p.m.*

*Wednesday, December 7
1:00 p.m.*

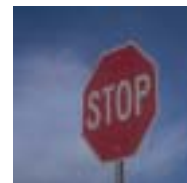
*Thursday, December 15
1:00 p.m.*

*Monday, December 19
1:00 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.

Red, Yellow or Green What if no color can be seen?

At this time of year, we never know what Mother Nature has in store for us! To ensure that your family is safe on the road, let's revisit some of the traffic rules.



If a traffic signal goes out, the rule book says that you stop at the intersection, as if there were a stop sign present. The car that arrives first at the stop sign, continues first. If two drivers stop simultaneously at stop signs at the same intersection, the car on the right-hand side (or the most counterclockwise), has the right of way.

If you are driving and your brakes get wet, water can cause the brakes to be weak, to apply unevenly, or to grab. This can cause a lack of braking power. Maintain light pressure on the brakes for a short distance to heat them up and dry them out.

It is also a good idea to have an emergency roadside kit in the trunk of your vehicle. These kits should include blankets, extra clothes, non-perishable snacks, a first aid kit, and even some kitty litter or sand to give your car traction, if needed.



What is the biggest selling Christmas single of all time? The answer is on page 6!

Library Wins Grant to Serve Disabled Customers

By: Sandy Prell, Clermont Library

Thanks to a grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), awarded by the State Library of Ohio, the Clermont County Public Library is pleased to provide library services to adults who have disabilities which may prevent them from accessing information resources at the library.

The "Service Without Boundaries: Making Access Possible" program is funded by a \$52,500 grant from the state and matching funds from the library. It includes upgrading the library's website, installing Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compatible workstations at each of the 10 branches, as well as training library staff and the public to use the new workstations. At the same time, the library will increase specific programming and services, and train staff to communicate more effectively with those having disabilities.

"We are delighted to be able to expand our services to people with disabilities," said Leslie Massey, director of the Clermont County Public Library. "Community support for this project has been great and our project manager, Elizabeth Fiene, is working hard to get new services into place throughout the library system."

Fifth Annual Best Dog Contest Launched

Children in grades kindergarten through six are invited to participate in the fifth annual "Best Dog in Clermont County" contest sponsored by Clermont County Auditor Linda Fraley, the Board of Clermont County Commissioners, the Clermont County Humane Society, and Merial, Ltd.

The drawing/essay contest is designed to increase awareness about the many adoptable pets currently available at the Clermont County Humane Society, the importance of dog licensing, and proper pet care. Last year, almost 400 entries were received.



Contest entrants must reside in Clermont County.

The deadline for contest entries is 4:30 p.m., Friday, December 16, 2005. Entries should be mailed or dropped off at the Clermont County Auditor's Office, 101 E. Main Street, Batavia, Ohio, 45103. Judging will be completed in January and the winners will be recognized during a special ceremony on January 19, 2006, at the Union Township Civic Center.



Winter Heating Resource Center Website

Ohio's Governor Taft has launched an online Winter Heating Resource Center to assist citizens who are having difficulty paying their winter heating bills. The information is



available at

www.winterheat.ohio.gov. If you need assistance with budget billing, energy conservation, or have been disconnected from your heat source, this site has information that can help you.

"As the home heating season arrives, many Ohioans are looking for programs and information from the state to help them maintain continuous service this winter," said Governor Taft. "I encourage all Ohioans in need of assistance to use the state resources available to them and to take steps now to conserve energy."

The website has links to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, the Ohio Departments of Development, Job and Family Services, Aging, and the Ohio Consumers' Council.



**Who lost \$8,000 in
It's a Wonderful
Life? The answer is
on page 6!**

Clermont County Showcased in Ohio CSEA Partners Conference

By: Brenda Gilreath, Deputy Director Child Support Enforcement
OCDA Conference & Training Committee Chair

Members of the Ohio Child Support Enforcement Directors Association held their first Child Support Partners Conference, "Connecting for Children," at the Radisson Hotel in Worthington, Ohio on November 16 and 17, 2005. The purpose of the Partners Conference was to provide informative networking designed specifically for child support partners statewide. On Wednesday, November 16, an awards ceremony was held and Excellence Awards were announced for *Legislator of the Year*; *the Magistrate Award of Excellence*; *Judge of the Year*; and the *CSE Partner Award of Excellence*.

Brenda Gilreath, deputy director of Clermont Child Support Enforcement, proudly accepted the *Legislator of the Year Excellence Award* on behalf of Senator Tom Niehaus (R-14). The award is presented each year to a legislator who has strengthened the child support program through actions resulting in more effective child support enforcement. Senator Niehaus sponsored an amendment to HB66 (state budget bill) in the spring of 2005 which reduced the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Child Support's intention to retain 5 million dollars in federal performance incentives earned by the counties. Coupled with federal reimbursement, the 5 million dollars had spending authority of 15 million. As a

result of the amendment introduced, the retention of federal incentive dollars was reduced to 1.5 million. Senator Niehaus will be recognized again when he is presented with the award by the Board of Clermont County Commissioners at their December 15 session.

The Clermont County Sheriff's Office was also nominated for an Excellence Award – the CSE Partner Award of Excellence for their outstanding efforts as they partnered with Child Support Enforcement on the Annual Most Wanted Roundup.

Sergeant Gary Payne, who coordinated this year's Roundup, traveled to Columbus to accept the award during the Partners Conference.

During the afternoon of November 16, Judge William Walker, Bruce Gibson and Shauna Smith from Clermont County Common Pleas Court and the Probation Department, delivered an outstanding presentation on the local criminal non-support program. The session included information on diversion and probation monitoring. The audience, which consisted of child support, fiscal, court, sheriff's department and probation staff, were able to listen and learn as the group explained the many accomplishments of the programs over a 10 year implementation period.



Sgt. Gary Payne accepts the CSE Partner Award of Excellence

On Thursday, November 17, Clermont Domestic Relations Judge Michael Voris partnered with panelists from Licking and Warren County to discuss alternative sentencing options being developed and utilized in counties to deal with the jail over population issues. Topics included work release, in home monitoring, and the use of mediation. This was another outstanding and informative session.

As the conference chair and originator of the Partners Conference concept – it was evident to me that Clermont County is a leader in local partnerships, collaboration, and innovation resulting in a model of exemplary county government.

***Above photo courtesy of:
Jemina Ott***



New One Stop Service Agency Opens in Batavia



A new Clermont One-Stop Service Agency opens its doors on Monday, December 5, 2005. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), the Clermont County Title Office, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol Driver Exam Station will relocate from 145 Foundry Avenue to 457 West Main Street in Batavia.

The new facility will offer customers a large, modern, and convenient location with ample parking available. Office hours for the BMV and Title Office will be from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Office hours will run from 8 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, and from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday.

The new telephone number to reach the One Stop Agency is **732-8050**.

Chilo Lock #34 Visitor Center and Museum Wins Two Awards

The Clermont County Park District has received two awards for the Chilo Lock #34 Park Visitor Center and Museum. Recently, the Park District completed a renovation of the historic powerhouse to breathe new life into the building, converting it into a visitor center and museum.



The Cincinnati Preservation Association awarded the Park District a *Preservation Award*; the Park District was specifically cited for maintaining the building's character and for following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

The Ohio's Hill Country Heritage Area (OHCHA) also honored the project with a *Built Environment and Historic Preservation Heritage Award*. OHCHA is dedicated to the identification, protection, and appropriate development of the natural, cultural, recreational, and economic resources in Appalachian Ohio.

Clermont Engineer Gears Up for Winter

The Clermont County Engineer's Office has stockpiled 7,500 tons of road salt to treat roads across the county this winter; the salt is housed in three barns, including the one on Filager Road in Batavia.

"The Engineer's Office must maintain 400 miles of roads across Clermont County," said County Engineer Pat Manger. "Our office constantly monitors weather reports to ensure that we are prepared and mobilized if inclement weather moves into our area."

If you are interested in finding out when the county snow plows will be moving the snow on a road near you, the Engineer's Office has set-up a hotline number to call, (513) 732-8869.



Clermont Engineer Pat Manger surveys the salt pile at the Filager Road barn in Batavia.

Clermont Library Events

By: Tammy Craig, Library

Teen Anime Club

Join the Anime Club for teens on Monday, December 5, from 3:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Doris Wood (Batavia) Branch Library, 180 South Third Street. Help review the latest anime titles and let the library know what you think is good anime. *For more information call the library at 732-2128.*

Culinary Conversations

Meet monthly to share recipes and cooking tips with other interested adults. Culinary Conversations will be held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 6, at the Doris Wood (Batavia) Branch Library, 180 South Third Street. The December topic is "Death by Chocolate." *For more information call the library at 732-2128.*

Afternoon Book Club

Join the Afternoon Book Club on Thursday, December 29, at 1:30 p.m., at the Milford-Miami Township Branch Library, located at 1099 State Route 131. This month's title is *The Redbird Christmas* by Fannie Flagg. All titles discussed are available in regular and large print. *For more information, call the library at 248-0700.*

County Employees Lead Scout Troop

By: Mike Finney, Domestic Relations



On the weekend of October 15, 2005, Immaculate Heart of Mary Boy Scout Troop 694 constructed a hiking trail at the Crooked Run

Nature Preserve in Chilo. It was part of an Eagle Scout project for Ken Hayes, a troop member.

Assistant scoutmasters for the troop are Paul Braasch, with the Clermont Office of Environmental Quality and Domestic Relations Court Chief Magistrate Mike Finney.

Find a new "best friend"



Sugar Ann



Ebony

Lots of puppies and kittens are now available!

**Clermont
Animal Shelter
732-8854**

Think of Needy Animals this Holiday Season

The Clermont County Animal Shelter has a "wish list" this holiday season to help house, care for, and feed unwanted animals in the county: paper towels, cleaning supplies, bleach, dish soap, large garbage bags, towels, dryer sheets, Dial liquid hand soap, toilet covers (used for the kittens and puppies), old bedding or blankets, laundry soap, dog or cat toys, puppy and kitten chow, cat litter, litter boxes, food bowls, garden hoses (used a lot in cleaning), and Windex.



From January through October of this year, over 4,000 animals have been cared for at the Clermont Animal Shelter.

If you would like to donate any of the items listed above, please drop them off at the shelter between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The shelter is located at 4025 Filager Road in Batavia. You can call the shelter at 732-8854.



**The biggest
selling Christmas
single of all time is
"White Christmas."**



**Uncle Billy lost
\$8,000 in *It's a
Wonderful Life.***



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 at **732-7597**.