



# Clermont County On The Move

a newsletter for citizens

Commissioners: Mary Walker, Bob Proud, and Scott Crosswell

November 2004

[www.co.clermont.oh.us](http://www.co.clermont.oh.us)

## “A Thanksgiving Journey” *Celebrating Families and the Joy of Adoption*

By: Mindy King, Clermont County Children’s Services

It is no surprise, that when asked to consider life’s richest blessings, most people first mention their family. What a sacred institution, the very fabric of society. A family is the place where one is loved and protected. A family provides a place of belonging and a shelter from life’s storms.

Public Service workers have the sacred trust of working with children through many seasons of life. For Children’s Protective Service workers, abuse and neglect is the “calling card” that links children to strong families in community. Foster parents become agents of hope and healing preparing many children to restore relationships and reunite with their family.

Sometimes, despite all efforts, birth parents are not able to effectively meet the needs of a child and it becomes evident that they will likely never be able to parent. After the court places the child in the permanent custody of the Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS), it then becomes the privilege of an adoption worker to find a “forever family” for the child.

Please spend a moment to reflect on the incredible “journey of thanksgiving” for adoptive parents, Matt and Kelly.

Kelly, a bright, beautiful young woman, courageously fought for her life on the perilous morning of October 23, 1996. Having received national media coverage surrounding the possibility of a live,

double lung donor transplant, many people across the nation joined Clermont County residents in prayer, as Kelly hoped for a new lease on life. Kelly had battled cystic fibrosis, and her only hope for the 25 percent chance of survival, depended upon the success of her transplant. Both of Kelly’s parents donated a lobe of their lung and waited alongside Kelly’s fiancé, Matt, with great anticipation for her recovery.



Because of Kelly’s physical limitations, she and Matt were keenly aware that they would never have biological children. After having been happily married for about 3 and-a-half years, they began to consider increasing their family through adoption. Over the course of the next six months, they attended training and completed a home study. They began to prepare to become parents, constantly reminded that it was likely many children would pass through their home and reunify with their birth family before a child came into their lives to stay. Although their goal was to adopt, they understood that the decision to be dually certified foster/adoptive parents through a public child welfare agency would require their willingness to place themselves emotionally at risk. They understood that preparing for the joy of parenting also meant bracing themselves for grief if the child they loved returned to their birth family through this bittersweet process...

(continued on page 2)

## “A Thanksgiving Journey”

(contid' from page 1)

Less than 48 hours after completing certification, Kelly and Matt held a precious newborn baby boy. The months that followed brought much uncertainty as his birth family made progress, and then relapsed, but this young family, strong in their faith, “trusted the final outcome of this emotional roller coaster ride to God.” His adoption was final when he was 15 months old.



A few years later, the longing for another child grew strong. Kelly and Matt opened their heart and home to a beautiful baby girl. They did not take this decision lightly. Having lived through the experience, they knew the risk involved. They once again prepared for the arduous waiting, but their emotions were intensified, knowing their son would also be affected by their decision to bring another child into the home. He immediately became attached to “his baby sister” and they were rightly concerned about how he would be affected should she reunify with her birth family. Time passed. Her adoption was recently finalized.

“People talk about how lucky our children are, but Matt and I are the lucky ones,” says Kelly. “This morning, we were rushing around as usual. Tyler didn’t want to get out of bed and Natalie wanted to be held. Matt tried to get one of the kids ready while I worked on the other one. We were off to another crazy, hectic day. This was not exactly where I thought my life would be, but I love it!”

Clermont County gratefully acknowledges the many families who have opened their hearts and homes to children through foster care and adoption. If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming a foster/adoptive parent, please call (513) 732-7173 for more information. The strength of our society depends on it!

### New Library Under Construction

The Clermont County Public Library (CCPL) is building a new structure at 611 West Plane Street in Bethel, designed to replace the current library. “The current branch is too small to support the needs of a thriving community,” said Leslie Massey, CCPL director. “This site was chosen because of its close proximity to schools, homes, and the center of town. It is important that the branch be in walking distance for many of its users.”

The new facility will offer many firsts for the Clermont County Public Library. There will be a drive-up window for people in a hurry. The building will have energy efficient utilities, enhanced childrens and teen areas, and a marquee sign to announce upcoming events.

The new library is expected to be completed in June 2005.



### Parade

The Clermont County Council of the American Legion, in conjunction with the Clermont County Veterans’ Service Commission, is pleased to announce the Clermont County Veterans Day Parade will be held on Thursday, November 11, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in downtown Batavia.



### November Commissioner Sessions

- Wednesday, Nov. 3.....1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 9.....11:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 10.....1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 16.....11:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 17.....1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 23.....11:00 a.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.

## In Memory

Clermont County Office of Public information videographer/cable station operator, Ron Beach, died suddenly on October 16, 2004.



## Clermont Park Events

By: Keith Robinson, Park Dist.

### Owl Prowl

Friday, November 5, 6:00 p.m., Chilo Lock #34 Park

Tuesday, November 9, 6:00 p.m., Pattison Park

*The forest is alive at night. Once the sun sets, many animals begin their daily routines. Follow the naturalist on this leisurely walk in search of owls, foxes, raccoons, and other nocturnal animals. No flashlights. We'll rely on our night vision, as well as our sense of hearing and smell to navigate our way through the woods. Meet at the information kiosk at Pattison Park or the naturalist's office at Chilo Park.*



### Habitat Help Days

Saturday, November 6, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Crooked Run Nature Preserve

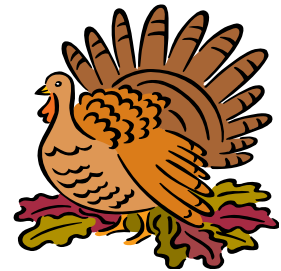
Saturday, November 13, 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m., Kelley Nature Preserve

*Nonnative invasive plants can be detrimental to habitats. They can spread quickly displacing native plants. The removal of exotic plants helps to ensure a healthier forest, and provides a greater diversity of plants and animals. Here's your chance to get down and dirty and help improve your parks. Park District staff will be removing honeysuckle and other nonnative plants at both nature preserves this fall. This work is strenuous and not recommended for children under 12. Registration required by calling (513) 876-9013.*

### Turkey Talk

Tuesday, November 23, 7:00 p.m., Pattison Park Lodge

*Bring the kids out to this thanksgiving aimed program. Wild turkeys are abundant in Ohio and Clermont County, but that wasn't always the case. Discover more about the season's most popular bird. Bring the kids along for a fun-filled evening.*



### Thanksgiving Tidbits



- ◆ Turkeys were one of the first animals in America to be domesticated
- ◆ Domesticated turkeys cannot fly
- ◆ Male turkeys are called "toms" and female turkeys are "hens"
- ◆ The pilgrims first celebrated their feast of "thanksgiving" in 1621
- ◆ An estimated 690 million pounds of turkey is consumed over Thanksgiving in the U.S. each year





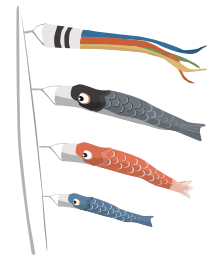
# CULTUREfest Success

celebrating diversity in Clermont County

It was a celebration of diversity at *Culturefest* 2004 on Saturday, October 9, at the UC Clermont College Campus. Attendees “traveled the world” and enjoyed the unique sights, sounds, and tastes of various cultures, without leaving Ohio!

*Culturefest* offered an impressive array of music, dance, food, and crafts.

As you can see by the pictures, *Culturefest* included a lot of face painting too!



## Clermont Jail Receives High Marks

The Clermont County Jail has once again achieved 100 percent compliance following this year’s annual jail inspection that was concluded in September. The jail has consistently scored high compliance marks in recent years.



The inspection focused on the reception and release of prisoners, programming, administrative segregation, staffing, and staff training.

“The credit for this distinction belongs to the dedicated and professional staff we have working at our jail,” said Sheriff A.J. “Tim” Rodenberg.

*Watch the Board of Clermont County Commissioners Meetings on Cable TV.*



*Call your Local Cable Operator for a Schedule.*

## Help a Child in Need

By: Sanna Gast, DJFS

If you are interested in sponsoring a child or family this holiday season, please contact me by November 15, 2004. After I have feedback from those wishing to be a sponsor, I will forward a child/family wish list to you.

Please note that all gifts wrapped and marked for a specific child will be given to that child. However, donations that are not designated for a specific child, may be given to another sponsored child to ensure a fair distribution of gifts to all children.



Our goal this year will be to have all gifts in Children’s Protective Services by Wednesday, December 15, 2004. This target date allows our staff to have time to deliver the beautifully wrapped gifts in plenty of time for the holidays.

Thank you very much for your generous support in the past, and I look forward to a successful 2004 Holiday Season!

## Library Events

By: Tammy Craig, Clermont Library

### Curious George Visit!

Saturday, Nov. 20, 2:00 p.m.

Amelia Branch Library

*Celebrate Children's Book Week with a visit by Curious George, the fun loving monkey and beloved book character.*

### Veteran Knitters Wanted

Wednesday, Nov. 17, 7:00 p.m.

Milford-Miami Twp. Branch Library

*Experienced knitters are invited to learn some new techniques. Call the library for more information at 248-0700.*

### Stinky Cheese Challenge

Saturday, November 20, 2:00 p.m.

Union Township Branch Library

*Children are invited for cheese tasting and for a special storytime. Books written by the author of the popular Stinky Cheese Man will be read.*



## "Mary, Mary – How Does Your Garden Grow?"

By: Kristin Germann, Clermont Library

The collection of gardening books at the Milford-Miami Township Branch of the Clermont County Public Library has "grown" thanks to a generous donation from the Lilies of the Valley Garden Club.



The Lilies have purchased five gardening books for the library, including *The Complete Shade Gardener* by George Schenk, *Tree and Shrub Gardening for Ohio* by Fred Hower and *Creating a Perennial Garden in the Midwest* by Joan Severa.

Cari Kehr, Lilies treasurer, says, "The Lilies and Milford Garden Club hosted the first annual Milford/Miami Township Garden Tour in June as a fundraiser. Since we raised over \$1,000, we wanted to make a generous civic donation. This year we chose to support the Milford-Miami Branch Library, because they need more gardening resources. We also plan to host a gardening program at the branch next spring."

## Have Room for Me?



Clermont Animal Shelter  
732-8854

## Batavia Named Model Community

More than 123 people showed up on Main Street in Batavia for a group photograph, appearing in *Ohio Magazine's* November issue.



The magazine is spotlighting towns and villages across Ohio, recognized as model communities. The editors of *Ohio Magazine* chose Batavia because of the Yellow Ribbon campaign and the outpouring of community support for the Maupin family, other service families, and the troops.

\*\*\*Above photo courtesy of the *Clermont Sun*.

---

*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 Bobbi Padgett at **732-7597**.