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Check out Clermont County online!

www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov



Uible Becomes New Commissioner

51-year-old David Uible of New Richmond officially became a Clermont County Commissioner on Friday, March 30, 2012. During a brief ceremony at the Board of Clermont County Commissioners (BCC) session room, Uible was administered the oath of office by Twelfth District Court of Appeals Judge Robert Ringland. "I look forward to serving the county in my new role as a commissioner," said Uible. "Over the next few weeks, I will meet with elected officials and department heads to learn how the various agencies of county government work separately and together."



Uible is a local businessman and rancher who studied mechanical engineering at Purdue University and did graduate work at Xavier University and the University of Cincinnati. He is married and the father of a teenage daughter.

Clermont Tornado/Storm Damage Near \$6 Million



Clermont County building inspectors have completed an assessment of structures impacted by the March 2, 2012 tornado and severe weather that impacted the county. A total of 353 structures were impacted in Franklin Township, Tate Township, Washington Township, and the village of Moscow. The assessment indicates that 68 structures were destroyed, 30

suffered major damage, 155 had minor damage, and 100 sustained slight damage. The estimated value of the structures impacted by the storms is \$27.8 million with a total estimated damage loss of \$5.7 million.

The assessment indicates there are a total of 65 structures in Franklin Township that have sustained an estimated damage loss of \$525,000; 25 homes were among those impacted. In Tate Township, 136 structures have sustained an estimated \$1.3 million in damages; 70 homes were impacted.

(continued on page 2)

Check out Clermont 18 video following the tornado and storms:

www.clermontcountyohio.gov/videos-CCT.aspx

Clermont Tornado (cont'd from page 1)

In Washington Township, 32 structures sustained an estimated \$169,000 worth of damage; 11 homes were impacted there. In the village of Moscow, 120 structures sustained an estimated damage loss of \$3.7 million; 82 single-family homes were impacted in Moscow.

The final county damage assessment is higher than the assessment reported on March 7, 2012, due to continuing efforts by Permit Central and the Building Inspection Department staff to closely check and verify each report of damage. For more information, contact Clermont County Permit Central at 732-7213, or visit the website

www.permit.ClermontCountyOhio.gov.



Clermont Commissioner Bob Proud thanks Cincinnati Bengals player DeQuin Evans and team marketing official Wade Martin for helping clear storm debris in Moscow.

The Board of Clermont County Commissioners has waived fees for building permits involving structures damaged by the March 2, 2012 storms. The Clermont General Health District has also waived a number of fees for storm victims; call 732-7499 for additional information.



The Bengals' Leon Hall dug right into clean-up efforts.



Clermont Commissioners April Sessions

Wednesday, April 4	10 a.m.
Monday, April 9	10 a.m.
Wednesday, April 11	10 a.m.
Wednesday, April 18	10 a.m.
Monday, April 23	10 a.m.
Wednesday, April 25	10 a.m.
Monday, April 30	10 a.m.

Board of Clermont County Commissioners meetings are held in the third floor session room of the Clermont County Administration Building, located at 101 E. Main Street in Batavia.



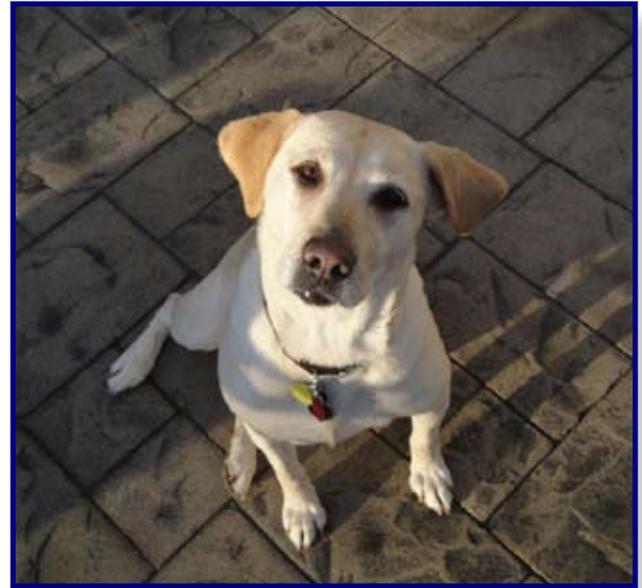
Bengals' Defensive Coordinator Mike Zimmer signs an autograph for 18-year-old Andrew Niehoff of Moscow. The Niehoff home was destroyed in the tornado.



The Bengals' Rey Mauauluga helps clean up storm damage in Moscow.

Maple Named Clermont County's Top Dog!

Maple, owned by Shannon and Gretchen Behimer from Loveland is the 2012 Clermont County Humane Society Poster Pooch. The 3 1/2-year-old yellow Labrador retriever beat out almost 100 other county dogs for the honor of representing the Humane Society in promoting the importance of dog licensing. In her nomination form, her owners said, "Maple was adopted through a shelter. She was scared at first, but has become happy and safe in her forever home." Maple and other contest award winners were introduced during a ceremony at the Eastgate Petsmart on Saturday, March 3, 2012.



Maple

2012 Clermont County Poster Pooch



The second place winner is Oscar, owned by Kimberly Beuke and Sophie Beuke from Owensville. The 9-month-old basset hound/boxer mix was rescued from living in the back of a pick-up truck,

where he and his siblings were born. His owners said, "Oscar has given us great joy and filled out hearts with love after losing our 14-year-old dog."

The third place winner is Big Dog, owned by Carol Gerlach from Milford. "Big Dog came into our lives as a stray while we were grieving the loss of a family member," said Gerlach, who added the lab mix 'found' his new family by showing up at a time when they needed some extra love in their lives.



2012 Honorable Mention Awards
Best Dog in Clermont County Competition

<i>Best Pose: Oliver</i>  owned by: Bill Miller of Milford	<i>Best Model: Jackson</i>  owned by: Shawna Dunn of Union Township	<i>Most Athletic: Palin</i>  owned by: Tim Cherry of Bethel
<i>Most Expressive: Bella</i>  owned by: Linda Justice of Batavia	<i>Cutest Ears: Toddy</i>  owned by: Lucia Faust of Union Township	<i>Best Duo: Baron and Daphne</i>  owned by: Megan Baldwin of Milford
<i>Best Smile and Best Teeth: Rose</i>  owned by: Connie and Larry Snyder of Milford	<i>Most Photogenic: Sookie and Linus</i>  owned by: Julie Crowthers of Owensville	<i>Prettiest Eyes: Ellie Mae and Luna</i>  owned by: Rebecca Kimble of Amelia
<i>Best Costume: Buffy</i>  owned by: Barbara Patten of Amelia	<i>Best Companion: Mercy</i>  owned by: Drew Abas of Loveland	<i>Cutest Puppy: Zoey</i>  owned by: Erin Robinson of Batavia
		<i>Best Companion: Mercy</i>  owned by: Bev and Chris Waltrauch of Goshen

Watch the awards ceremony at:
<http://www.clermontcountyohio.gov/video0312pooch.aspx>.

Every spring is the only spring - a perpetual astonishment.

~Ellis Peters

Wear Blue on Wednesday, April 11



The seasons are what a symphony ought to be: four perfect movements in harmony with each other.

~Arthur Rubenstein

Clermont County Children's Protective Services asks that everyone wear a blue shirt or blue pants to work on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 to show your support for National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April.



Protecting children is a responsibility we all share; child abuse and neglect are major problems both locally and nationally. In 2011, Clermont County received 1,743 new reports of abuse; physical abuse allegations have doubled since 2008.

Each year, U.S. manufacturers produce more than 16 billion jelly beans for Easter -- that's enough to completely fill a plastic Easter egg 89 feet high and 60 feet wide (about the height of a nine-story office building)



National Library Week is April 9-14

By: Amy Prewitt, Clermont Library

National Library Week is April 9-14 and the Clermont County Public Library is celebrating by hosting a series of activities, events, and giveaways spanning the entire week.

"We have many customers who recognize the value of their public library," said Tracey McCullough, supervisor of programming. "National Library Week is an opportunity for us to really roll out the red carpet for those loyal customers, and also attract new users to the library with fun programming for the entire family."

Activities for the week feature visits from Clifford the Big Red Dog, movie matinees, and giveaways every day including library tote bags, a portable DVD player, and Lord of the Rings trilogy DVD set. Kids can pick up a color sheet to win a puzzle featuring the library mascot Browser and an opportunity to have their picture taken with Browser for a library READ poster.

For a complete list of the week's events, visit your library in person or online at www.ClermontLibrary.org.

Ohio Fascinating Factoids:

- The Y Bridge in Zanesville was first built in 1814 to span the confluence of the Licking and Muskingum Rivers. The current bridge is the fifth construction at the same location. "Ripley's Believe It or Not" proclaimed it the only bridge in the world which you can cross and still be on the same side of the river.
- Ohio gave America its first hot dog in 1900. Harry M. Stevens created the popular dining dog.
- 50 percent of the United States population lives within a 500 mile radius of Columbus.

Source: www.50states.com

Earth Day is April 22
Make every day Earth Day.

- Commit to protect the environment
 - Take action
 - Learn - teach - share

<http://www.epa.gov/earthday/>



**Commissioner Proud Named to Lead State
 Justice and Public Safety Committee**

The County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) has again named Board of Clermont County Commissioners President Bob Proud as chair of the Justice and Public Safety Committee. The committee will make recommendations on a variety of criminal justice issues in Ohio.



Commissioner Bob Proud

"Given the fiscal challenges that confront counties, it is critical that we find better ways to run our court and criminal justice systems with the same or fewer dollars," said President of CCAO Deborah Lieberman. "Many counties spend 65 percent or more of their budget on public safety and justice programs; I welcome Bob's leadership as we look for new ways to save tax dollars."

"I have always had a strong interest in criminal justice and look forward to working on programs and initiatives that can save money, reduce recidivism, and make our communities safer," said Commissioner Proud, who also chaired the committee in 2011.

***Commissioner Proud
 Receives National
 Humanitarian Award***

Board of Clermont County Commissioners (BCC) President Bob Proud has been named the national winner of the ***Donald Myers Humanitarian Award***, presented by the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA). The award recognizes individuals who, through their meritorious contributions of leadership and community service, have enriched Appalachia. Commissioner Proud was cited for his *exemplary efforts to provide support and assistance to the families of members of the U.S. Armed Services from Clermont County*. He received the award on March 19, 2012 during the DDAA annual conference in Arlington, Virginia.

"I am humbled to have been selected for the ***Donald Myers Humanitarian Award***," said Commissioner Proud. "I just want to let our military and their families know that we appreciate what they do to preserve our freedom. We can't say thank you enough."



Easter Trivia.....

More than one billion Easter eggs are hunted in the United States each year in parks, back yards, and on the White House lawn.....

Managing Concerns About Falls

By: Denise Franer, General Health District

Have you turned down a chance to go out with family or friends because you were concerned about falling? Have you cut down on a favorite activity because you might fall? If so, *A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls* is a program for you.

Fear of falling can be just as dangerous as falling itself. People who develop this fear often limit their activities, which can result in severe physical weakness, making the risk of falling even greater. Many older adults also experience increased isolation and depression when they limit their interactions with family and friends. *A Matter of Balance* can help people improve their quality of life and remain independent.

A Matter of Balance is designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults. Participants learn to set realistic goals to increase activity, change their environment to reduce fall risk factors, and learn simple exercises to increase strength and balance.

The Clermont County General Health District Senior Safety Program is offering *A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls* on Thursdays, April 19-June 7, 1 - 3 p.m at Eastgate Village 776 Old St. Rt. 74 Cincinnati, Ohio 45245. The program is free; a workbook is provided and refreshments will be served. Call 735-8421 to register or for more information.

Watch an interview with Denise about the fall prevention program at:

www.clermontcountyohio.gov/video032012safety.aspx



“Tornado” Begins New Life as Ozzie

Sandy Mangan of Bethel couldn't stop thinking about the stray yellow lab-mix she found after the violent storms that moved through the area on March 2, 2012. She took the dog to the Clermont Animal Shelter where it could hopefully be reunited with its owner.

Sandy called frequently during the dog's 10 day stay at the shelter; when his owner didn't come forward, Sandy jumped at the chance to adopt the dog nicknamed “Tornado.” Renamed Ozzie, you can see the bond that has already been formed between woman and dog!



Clermont Park Events

By: Keith Robinson, Park District

Weekly Butterfly Monitoring

Begins Sunday, April 1

2012 long term Butterfly Monitoring begins April 1; volunteers are needed to walk the monitoring route weekly. No prior experience or knowledge is necessary.

Contact Laura at lhoople@clermontcountyohio.gov for more information.



Preschool Story Time: Wildflowers

Wednesday, April 18, 1:30 p.m. – Sycamore Park

Bring your preschooler for a special program in the park. Enjoy stories, crafts, and hikes with Naturalist Laura and Angie from the library. Each month features a new topic! Please register in advance; the deadline to register is by 3 p.m. on Monday, April 16. Call 876-9013 to sign up.

Frogs and Toads



Friday, April 13, 8 p.m. – Shor Park

Spring evenings are filled with the sounds of chorusing frogs and toads. The males put on quite a show as they serenade any interested females. Join a naturalist as we search the flooded fields and ditches of Shor Park in search of spring peepers and American Toads. Bring waterproof shoes or boots and a flashlight.

Habitat Help Day: Garlic Mustard Pull

Saturday, April 14, 1 p.m. – Sycamore Park

Saturday, April 21, 1 p.m. – Chilo Lock #34 Park

Volunteers are needed for the annual Spring Habitat Help Day to remove garlic mustard in Sycamore Park and the Crooked Run Nature Preserve. All ages are welcome; bring your gloves and be ready to pull! For more information or to pre-register, contact Laura at lhoople@clermontcountyohio.gov or call 876-9013.

Woodland Wildflower Walks

Thursday, April 19, 6:30 p.m. – Sycamore Park

Sunday, April 22, 1 p.m. – Sycamore Park

Sycamore Park always boasts a colorful display of spring wildflowers. Join a naturalist guided walk as you learn more about our woodland wildflowers. Meet at the pedestrian bridge.



Homeschooler Program: Wildflowers

Friday, April 20, 1 p.m. – Sycamore Park

Enjoy the wonderful display of spring wildflowers at Sycamore Park as you discover all there is to know about flowers. We'll discuss parts of the flower and their function, then we'll try identifying a few. Program is ideal for ages 8 and up. Call 876-9013 to register. Registration deadline is Wednesday, April 18; fee is \$2 per person.

East Fork River Sweep

Saturday, April 28

Join Clermont Parks and the Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District for the annual East Fork River Sweep. Locations will include East Fork State Park, Stonelick State Park, and other locations along the river. We will use canoes or walk on foot to remove debris from the banks of river. Participants must register in advance; call 732-7075 or 734-4323.

Clermont County Permit Central NEWS

2275 Bauer Road Batavia, Ohio 45103 Phone: (513) 732-7213 www.permit.ClermontCountyOhio.gov

Tornado Safety

By: Bruce Crase, Permit Central

Many of the general characterizations about tornadoes are wrong and many of those assumptions can be dangerous or deadly. The misconception that tornadoes don't occur near hills, rivers, and lakes is obviously not true; the recent tornado that touched down in the village of Moscow is proof of that. Tornadoes vary in intensity measured by the Fujita Scale. They usually vary in width from 100 yards to 300 yards, though at least one major hurricane was estimated to be one mile in width. The damage from tornadoes occurs directly in the path of the cyclone with little to no damage outside the vortex. That is why one home is untouched while neighboring homes can be completely devastated.

Twisters can form suddenly, can move at speeds up to 70 mph and can change direction suddenly; it is important to be alert to signs that a tornado is possible, particularly during a tornado watch or tornado warning. Tornadoes generally move in a northeasterly direction; this is not always the case so you should be aware of changes in wind and sky from all directions. Most people who have lived through a tornado describe the sound it makes as 'like a freight train'. However, you cannot count on hearing the sound in time. Watch for these signs:

- Any organized swirling of debris, even in the absence of a funnel cloud.
- Large hail does not mean a tornado is imminent but you should take special heed of this precipitation during a tornado watch or tornado warning.



A home destroyed by the recent tornado in Moscow

- A sickly green or green-black hue to the sky.
- The building sound of rushing air.
- Very fast moving clouds, particularly if rotating.
- Sky borne debris.
- An eerie silence that occurs just after or in the middle of, a thunderstorm.

During a Tornado Warning:

Go at once to your prearranged shelter, basement, interior most room, closet, or bathtub. Cover up with sleeping bags or blankets. Continue to listen to the radio for updates. If you are in a car, drive to the nearest shelter. Outrunning a tornado can be a dangerous and a low probability undertaking.

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Tornado Safety

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Overpasses, commonly thought to be safe shelters, are bad choices. If no shelter is available, find a ditch and lie flat. Hold on to small trees and other vegetation. Tornado wind speed is lower the closer to the ground but flying debris is still a danger.



A home destroyed by the recent tornado in Moscow

After a Tornado:

- Avoid entering damaged buildings; return only when authorities say it is safe.
- Continue to monitor the radio for updates.
- If you smell or hear the hiss of leaking gas, leave the building immediately.
- Take photos of the house and contents for insurance purposes.

After damage assessments have been performed, and buildings are determined safe to occupy, owners may return. Any buildings in need of repairs or reconstruction will require permits and inspections by Clermont County Permit Central. Call 732-7213 or visit the website www.permit.clermontcountyohio.gov/.



Inspecting the damage from the March 2012 tornado and severe storms: Clermont Engineer Pat Manger, Rob Alfieri with the Engineer's Office, and Director of the Clermont Building Inspection Department Carl Lamping

Tornadoes

Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. Spawned from powerful thunderstorms, tornadoes can cause fatalities and devastate a neighborhood in seconds. A tornado appears as a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground with whirling winds that can reach 300 miles per hour. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long. Every state is at some risk from this hazard.

Some tornadoes are clearly visible, while rain or nearby low-hanging clouds obscure others. Occasionally, tornadoes develop so rapidly that little, if any, advance warning is possible. Before a tornado hits, the wind may die down and the air may become very still. A cloud of debris can mark the location of a tornado even if a funnel is not visible.

Tornadoes generally occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm. It is not uncommon to see clear, sunlit skies behind a tornado.

For more information visit the website www.ready.gov.

Author of New Richmond at April Book Signing

Cheryl Crowell, author of the new Arcadia book *New Richmond* will be at the season opening of Historic New Richmond, Inc's historic residence the Ross-Gowdy House on April 7, from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. This pictorial history boasts a vast collection of vintage images and provides readers with a unique opportunity to reconnect with the history that shaped their community.

The local museum is open the first Saturday of the month from April until October. Located at 125 George Street in New Richmond, the museum is on the National Historic Registry and is the home of Historic New Richmond, Inc.



Each Easter season, Americans buy more than 700 million Marshmallow Peeps, shaped like chicks, as well as Marshmallow Bunnies and Marshmallow Eggs, making them the most popular non-chocolate Easter candy.



Free Clermont Pond Clinic Set for Tuesday, April 10

If you own, or are planning on building a pond, check out the Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District's (CSWCD) annual pond clinic at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10. The clinic will be held in the 4-H Hall at the Clermont County Fairgrounds, located at 1000 Locust Street in Owensville. The clinic is free and there will be door prizes available.

Last year, record setting rainfall kept ponds full, while stressing overflow structures and saturating dams. Come learn about the new information available about pond health and maintenance, including the new Clermont County Stormwater Basin Management Guide.



Subjects to be discussed at the pond clinic include:

- pond construction
- aquatic weed control
 - fish stocking
 - aeration
- nuisance wildlife control

The evening should wrap up around 8:30 p.m. with a question and answer session. Register by calling the CSWCD at 732-7075.



By: Tammy Craig, Clermont Library

Happy Birthday, Clifford!

Thursday, April 12, 10:30 a.m. – Amelia Branch

Come meet Clifford the Big Red Dog and help us celebrate his birthday with stories, songs, crafts, and more! Don't forget your camera! For more information or to register, call 752-5580.



Senior Coffee Hour: Social Networking

Friday, April 13, 10:30 a.m. – Amelia Branch

Join us for a discussion about the proper way to send a text, tweet, or email, and learn what all the jargon means. For more information or to register, call 752-5580.

Titanic's 100th Anniversary

Monday, April 16, 6:30 p.m. – Goshen Branch

Attendees of all ages will enjoy this informative and entertaining event as they visit with passengers who will share their experience of life on board the Titanic. Learn the difference between first, second, and third class travel on the ship. Sample the food selections from the actual Titanic menu. We'll wrap up the evening with a discussion of the last night activities leading up to the sinking of the ship. For more information or to register, please call 722-1221.



Cincinnati Memories: Part II

Saturday, April 21, 10:30 a.m. – Amelia Branch

Join Jeanne Rolfes from the Cincinnati Preservation Association to discuss Crosley Field, the Cincinnati inclines, Eden Park, the Island Queen, and Coney Island, Miami and Erie Canal, Music Hall, and much more. For more information or to register, call 752-5580.

Springtime Project: Painted Pots

Tuesday, April 17, 6 p.m. – Bethel Branch
Attendees ages 5 – 13 will paint a mini flower pot and take home mystery seeds to plant! For more information or to register, call 734-2619.

Code Word: Spring!

During the month of April – Milford-Miami Township Branch
Visit the library each week in April to solve the hidden secret code in the kid's area of the library. Each week a winner will be chosen among the correct submitted answers. For more information, call 248-0700.



Learn to Crochet
Mondays in April, 6 p.m. – Williamsburg Branch
Teens and adults

will learn basic crochet stitches and how to read and follow crochet patterns. For more information or to register, call 724-1070.

Teen Writing Group

Monday, April 5, 3:30 p.m. – Union Township Branch
Teens are invited to join the new teen writing group. Each month, the group will meet to share thoughts, write, and enjoy snacks with other local young writers. For more information or to register, call 528-1744.



Six Things You Can Do to Save Water in the Kitchen and Laundry

1. Use your automatic dishwasher only for full loads.
2. Use your automatic washing machine only for full loads.
3. If you wash dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing. If you have two sinks, fill one with soapy water and one with rinse water. If you have only one sink, gather washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse them with a spray device or a panful of hot water.
4. Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables. Just rinse them in a stoppered sink or a pan of clean water.
5. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. Running tap water to cool it off for drinking water is wasteful.
6. Check faucets and pipe for leaks. Leaks waste water 24 hours a day, seven days a week and often can be repaired with only an inexpensive washer.



Source: Clermont Water Resources,
www.wrd.ClermontCountyOhio.gov

Humane Society Satellite Adoptions

The Clermont County Humane Society will hold satellite adoptions at the Eastgate Petsmart store on the following dates in April:

Saturday, April 14, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 21, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

If you are considering adding a four-legged member to your family, volunteers will be available to answer any questions you may have. For more information, call the Animal Shelter at 732-8854.

Clermont Health District Offering Free HIV and Hepatitis C Testing

The Clermont County General Health District Nursing Division is offering free, confidential HIV and Hepatitis C testing and education. The testing will be conducted on the first Tuesday of each month, beginning on April 3, 2012. To schedule an appointment, call **735-8400**.

The Hepatitis C test is performed on a confidential basis only; that means you give your name when you are tested, but the information is kept private and not shared with anyone outside of the testing process. The testing is done by obtaining a small amount of blood from a finger stick; results are generally available within three weeks.

HIV testing can be performed on a confidential or on an anonymous basis. If you take it anonymously, you do not have to give your name at the testing site. The test is done by using an oral swab to the inside of your mouth; results are generally available within 20 minutes.

If any test results are positive, the intervention specialist will provide you with education about the results, and will guide you to the next steps you should take to protect your health.

For more information about the free HIV and Hepatitis C testing, or to schedule an appointment, call 735-8400.



Clermont County Animal Shelter Critters

call 732-8854 for more information



Ava



Bella



Jessie



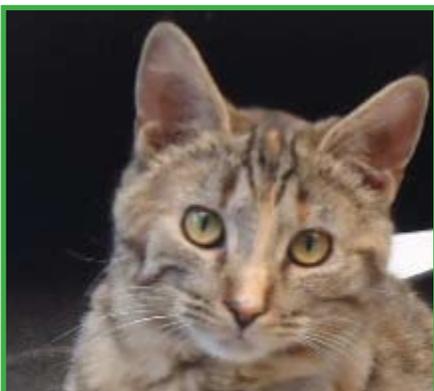
Spazz



Leo



Oliver



Pebbles



Pixie



Emma



732-8854

www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov



Who won the Mirror Ball Trophy this year?

By: Lisa Davis, Clermont DD

For the third year in a row, Clermont DD has hosted a “Dancing with the Stars” Extravaganza to raise money for their Gift of Time Respite Program. Held at the Holiday Inn Eastgate on March 9, eight couples competed in this year’s competition. Their costumes were glittery, their nerves were jittery, and they all did a wonderful job.

Couples participating were: Carolyn and Gary Kelley of First Transit; SODC Superintendent Jim Krumer and Ohio Valley Goodwill’s Leslie McCurley; Len Koogler and Beverly Eyer of Koogler-Eyer Realty; Chris Adams, Executive Director Stepping Stones and Sheila Hinton, Director of the YMCA-Clermont County; Jason Dimaculangan of Landmark Insurance and Leah Wainscott of the Dan Beard Council Boy Scouts of America; Guy Guckenberger of MTCI and his wife Kristy of American Modern Insurance Group; Martha Geiger of UC Clermont and Jomo Leing of Clermont County Children’s Protective Services; Debora Beebe of Clermont DD’s Wildey School and her son Paul Beebe, a senior at Blanchester High School.

Each couple danced to either the swing or cha-cha. Midway through the evening, the audience was asked to cast their votes for their favorite couple. Each person in the audience received one free vote; they also had the opportunity to purchase votes, 4

for \$1. Dancers were given the opportunity to sell votes at least one month in advance, which were added to the March 9 votes.

While the votes were being counted, the audience enjoyed the “Showcase of Stars.” This performance featured past dancers including Sheriff Tim

Rodenberg, Clermont County Prosecutor Don White, and Miami Township Trustee Ken Tracy to name a few. Representative Joe Uecker and UC Clermont’s Meredith Delaney also performed their winning dance from 2011 during the Showcase.

Jason Dimac and Leah Wainscott were awarded the Judges Choice Award and were presented their trophies by 2010 winners, Clermont Auditor Linda Fraley and partner Jeff Diesel. In the end, it was Guy and Kristy Guckenberger with their “Stayin’ Alive” disco moves who won the 2012 Mirror Ball Trophy.

So, who is dancing next year? The

Mirror Ball Trophy will be up for grabs in March, 2013...are you interested? Do you dare?!



Guy and Kristi Guckenberger win the 2012 Mirror Ball Trophy for their disco moves to the Bee Gees’ “Stayin’ Alive”



A Final Salute: *The Clermont Memorial Team Stands Ready*

They stand at attention in rain, snow, and sleet, often on wind-swept hillsides, to pay last respects to veterans. “We’ve been there in six inches of snow with wind chills well below zero. It is the least we can do for them. They have made so many sacrifices for us to ensure our freedom,” said Bob Mabry, a member of the South West Ohio Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Memorial Team. The team is comprised of members of VFW posts in Loveland, Milford, Batavia, and Willowville; most are Vietnam-era veterans, including Mabry, who served as a gunny sergeant with the Marines.



Lucky Johnson plays taps during a recent funeral service

Last year, the memorial team attended 128 funerals. “We are saying goodbye to many of our WWII and Korean War veterans,” said Mabry. “We have depended on a lot of those guys to be part of the memorial team. Now, we are hoping some of the younger veterans will step up and help us with this



important duty that includes a rifle volley, the folding of the flag that covers the casket, and the playing of taps.” He said the memorial team practices every two months to make sure they perform their duties correctly. “Our members are mostly retired, so they are available to attend memorial and burial services anytime,” added Mabry.

Mabry says the memorial team has saved his life and has given him new purpose. “I had a heart attack and had to retire from the Marines. Giving back to the community this way has helped me survive,” he said. “The toughest part of the ceremony is after we fold the flag and I have to present it to the widow. In the back of my mind, I know that in the not too distant future, someone could be doing that for my wife.”

He said that anyone interested in participating in the memorial team can call him at 752-5541 for details. “We also need donations; it costs \$500 to outfit each person on the team,”

said Mabry.

To watch an interview with Mabry, visit the website www.clermontcountyohio.gov/video032012vfw.aspx.



Members of the South West Ohio Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Team prepare to fire a salute at a memorial service for a local veteran

Make Sure Your Home Isn't Inviting to Potential Abusers

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, over 2.5 million Americans are abusing prescription medication; prescription drugs are the second most commonly abused category of drugs, behind marijuana. In an effort to get unused and outdated prescription drugs off the street, the Coalition for a Drug-Free Clermont County and local law enforcement will join the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) for the fourth ***National Prescription Drug Take Back Day***, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 28, 2012. There will be five drop-off locations in Clermont County:

- Amelia Police Department, 44 W. Main Street in Amelia (718-9090)
- Batavia Fire Department, 2401 Old SR32 in Batavia (732-3876)
- Target, 100 Rivers Edge in Milford (248-5084)
- Pierce Township Police Department, 950 Locust Corner Road (752-4100)
- Bethel Police Department, 149 North East Street in Bethel (734-2256)

“The last time we did this, over 300 pounds of prescription drugs were collected,” said Coalition for a Drug Free Clermont County Director Heidi Nykolayko. “Use a marker to cross out the name and personal information on the pill bottle, and then drop it off. No questions will be asked.”

“Your prescription medication should not be kept in a medicine cabinet, the bedroom nightstand, or in the kitchen,” said acting Pierce Township Police Chief Jeff Bachman. “Family members

or visitors to your home could easily take your medication. Make sure it is in a locked safe or cabinet. Prescription drug abuse is a very big problem locally; our office averages a run a day for missing or stolen medications.” The DEA reports that Opioids (such as the pain relievers OxyContin and Vicodin), central nervous system depressants (Xanax, Valium), and stimulants (Concerta, Adderall) are the most commonly abused prescription drugs.



The ***National Prescription Drug Take Back Day*** in Clermont County will accept tablets, capsules, and all other solid dosage forms of outdated or unwanted medication. All of the drugs will be destroyed. For more information, call 735-

Watch an interview about the event at:

<http://www.clermontcountyohio.gov/video0312drugs.aspx>

Easter Trivia.....

As per the Guinness Book of World Records, the largest Easter egg made was just over 25 feet high, made of chocolate and marshmallow. It weighed 8,968 lbs. and was supported by an internal steel frame.....

In the United States, Easter is the second most important candy-eating occasion of the year, after Halloween.....

In the mid-20th century, it used to take up to 27 hours to make a marshmallow peep - today the time has been reduced to six minutes.....

Seventy-six percent of people bite off the chocolate bunny ears first, while 5 percent bite feet first, and four percent eat the tail first.....

Orange Honey Fish

Yields 4 servings

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: 15-20 minutes

Ingredients:

- 2 Tbsp finely chopped green onions
- 3 Tbsp fresh orange juice
- 2 Tbsp honey
- ½ tsp paprika
- 1 lb flounder or white fish of your choice

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375° F
2. Mix first four ingredients in small pan and simmer over low heat
3. Place the fish in a baking dish treated with non-stick spray
4. Pour sauce evenly over fish
5. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork

NUTRITION FACTS PER SERVING: 168 calories, 2 g total fat (0 g saturated fat), 27 g protein, 10 g carbohydrates, 0 g dietary fiber, 118 mg sodium, 76 mg cholesterol, 9 g sugars
Nutrition information compliments of www.nutritiondata.com

Recipe compliments of LIGHTEN-UP! 5-Ingredient Less Fat Recipes, Cookbook Cupboard

Easy Carrot Cake Cupcakes

- 1 package spice cake mix
- 1-1/2 cups shredded carrots
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 (16 ounces) can cream cheese frosting

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
2. Prepare spice cake mix according to package directions. Fold in shredded carrots, chopped walnuts, and ground cinnamon.

3. Line muffin tins with paper cupcake cups.
4. Fill cups half full.
5. Bake 18 to 23 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in center of cupcake comes out clean.
6. Remove from pans to wire racks
7. Cool completely before frosting with cream cheese frosting.



Recipe compliments of:

www.GourmetCupcakeRecipes.com



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This newsletter is a service of the Board of Clermont County Commissioners.
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