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## New Library Opens in Union Township



The new \$5 million Clermont County Library branch in Union Township is housed in the former Ryan's Steakhouse, located at 4450 Glen Este-Withamsville Road. "This will be the largest of the 10 Clermont County Public Libraries, at 20,729 square feet," said Clermont Public Library Executive Director David Mezack. "I think the community will be excited to see all that we have to offer!"

The first thing a visitor to the new library will probably notice is that the design theme is based on the colors of nature.

"We have 25 computers that are available to citizens with an additional five computers in the teen area and four more in the early learning center," said Mezack. "The teen corner of the library has a colorful magnetic bulletin board,

tube lighting, and colorful comfy chairs to read or study."

Mezack said he and his staff have spent years studying what works well in other libraries and working the best designs into the plans for this new library. "We have plug-ins on top of desks to enable visitors to connect their laptop computers, and lots of comfortable seating to do research or leisurely reading," he said. "We invite the community to reserve our conference room, or to watch programming and events airing on flat screen televisions in various parts of the library." This library will let you do a self check-out, but staff members are available to help, if needed.

Check out the new Union Township Library at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0KEvIYoTsA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0KEvIYoTsA).



*Check out Clermont County online!*

[www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov](http://www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov)



## President Proud in 2012

Bob Proud will serve as president of the Board of Clermont County Commissioners (BCC) for calendar year 2012; Ed Humphrey will serve as vice president and Archie Wilson will serve as a member of the board. They were elected during the annual BCC reorganization meeting on Monday, January 9, 2012.



“As we enter 2012, I am optimistic that our economy will continue to recover,” said Commissioner Proud, who is in his sixth term as a county commissioner. “We, as a county, face many challenges in this new year. We will continue to work with the private sector in creating a business-friendly environment for the creation of jobs.”

Commissioner Humphrey added that transportation improvements across the county are a big catalyst when it comes to bringing new jobs into the county. “We need to continue to work with the state, townships, and communities to improve transportation,” said Humphrey. “Better roadways drive job creation and growth.” He cited several local businesses that

have recently announced plans to grow, including Jungle Jim’s, TQL, and TCS. “These three businesses will contribute to thousands of new jobs in the county,” he said. “I anticipate even more announcements of job creation in the county over the next few months.”

The BCC will meet at 10 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays in 2012. All meetings will be held in the third floor session room of the Clermont County Administration Building, located at 101 E. Main Street in Batavia. For a detailed agenda, visit the commissioner’s website at [www.bcc.ClermontCountyOhio.gov](http://www.bcc.ClermontCountyOhio.gov) or call 732-7300.

## Commissioner Humphrey Selected for CCAO Committee

The County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) has named Clermont County Commissioner Ed Humphrey to serve as vice chair of the CCAO General Government and Operations Committee. The committee will make recommendations to the CCAO Board for policy positions on various proposals and bills in the legislature. In addition, the committee will be tasked with helping develop policy positions for CCAO’s 2013-2014 Legislative Platform and Priorities.

“I have known and worked with Commissioner Ed Humphrey for several years at CCAO,” said CCAO President Debbie Lieberman. “He has a deep interest and is very knowledgeable about the

issues that the General Government and Operations Committee will work on this year. One important issue we will explore is how our state election system works; we want to make sure that every Ohioan has the best voting experience possible. This is essential to the work of county commissioners across the state.”



## ***Clermont First Half Property Taxes due February 13***

Approximately 40,000 first half 2011 real estate tax bills are in the mail to taxpayers without bank/mortgage company escrow accounts, according to Clermont County Treasurer, J. Robert True. The deadline for payment is February 13, 2012.

Taxes can be paid by mail or in person at the Treasurer's Office, located on the second floor of the Clermont County Administration Building, 101 E. Main Street, Batavia, from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Taxes can also be paid at the following banks located in Clermont County: Park National Bank, Fifth Third Bank, Lebanon-Citizens National Bank, National Bank & Trust, RiverHills Bank and U.S. Bank, N. A. Taxes may also be paid online at [www.ClermontTreasurer.org](http://www.ClermontTreasurer.org) or by calling (800) 272-9829.



A convenient night deposit box is located at the Main Street entrance of the Clermont Administration Building for payment of taxes when government offices are not open. For additional information about property taxes, contact the Clermont County Treasurer's Office at 732-7254, e-mail [Treasurer@clermontcountyohio.gov](mailto:Treasurer@clermontcountyohio.gov) or visit on the website [www.clermonttreasurer.org](http://www.clermonttreasurer.org).



### **Derr Named President of Clermont Veterans' Service Commission**

Bob Derr (3rd term) is the new president of the Clermont Veterans' Service Commission; he was appointed to the position during the annual reorganizational meeting of the commission on Wednesday, January 11, 2012. Cliff Riley (3rd term) will serve as vice-president, Donald Chandler (3rd term) will be secretary, and Ken Cook (3rd term) and Howard Daugherty (3rd term) will be members of the commission in 2012.

### ***What will the rest of the winter and early spring look like?***

Check out the Clermont Today conversation with Batavia SkyEye weather's Rich Apuzzo!

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTCwv27DRMA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTCwv27DRMA)



### **Your Amazing Heart!**

*Hold out your hand and make a fist. If you're a kid, your heart is about the same size as your fist, and if you're an adult, it's about the same size as two fists.*

## *Kick the Smoking Habit in 2012*

If you made a New Year's resolution to quit smoking in 2012, some free help is available. Adults, 18 and older, who are currently smoking on a daily basis and live in Clermont County, can now participate in the OSU Quit Smoking Project, a research partnership between the Ohio State University College of Public Health and OSU Extension-Clermont. Participants in the study will receive up to eight weeks of free nicotine patches and telephone support. Those with major health



issues or who are pregnant are not eligible for the study. Only 61 people will be admitted to the program, and must commit to participate in the follow-up research, even if they do not quit smoking.

The OSU Quit Smoking Project is funded by the National Cancer Institute, which is part of the National Institutes of Health. For additional information, or if you are interested

in participating in the project, call Debi Parm at 635-8595.

### *What are you reading?*

The Clermont County Public Library said the most checked-out adult fiction books for 2011 were:

1. Now You See Her by James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge
2. The Help by Kathryn Stockett
3. Toys: A Novel by James Patterson and Neil McMahon
4. Tick Tock by James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge
5. Smokin' Seventeen: A Stephanie Plum Novel by Janet Evanovich
6. 10th Anniversary by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro
7. The Confession by John Grisham
8. The Sixth Man by David Baldacci
9. I'll Walk Alone: A Novel by Mary Higgins Clark
10. Safe Haven by Nicholas Sparks

### **Valentine Fun Facts**

- *More than 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine's Day. A survey conducted by the Chocolate Manufacturers Association revealed that 50 percent of women will likely give a gift of chocolate to a guy for Valentine's Day.*
- *Valentine's Day is the fourth biggest holiday of the year for confectionery purchases (after Halloween, Easter and Christmas).*
- *American men say they'd rather receive chocolate than flowers on Valentine's Day, especially those over the age of 50. Sixty-eight percent of men age 50 or older say they'd prefer receiving chocolate over flowers from their sweetheart on Valentine's Day, while just 22 percent said they'd rather have the flowers.*



## For the Love of the Game

He has reached a milestone few have attained. UC Clermont College head men's basketball coach John Hurley says he has done a lot of reflecting on his career, since his Cougar squad gave him his 900th coaching win in December 2011. Even after 40 plus years of coaching, Hurley is still going strong. "I do it for the love of the game," he said, during a recent practice of his squad on the UC Clermont College campus. "I have a passion for basketball. I have really enjoyed working with the many young men who have played for me."



past eight years at UC Clermont, where he has led his teams to numerous regional championships and in 2008, the United States Collegiate Athletic Association National Championship.

What makes a good basketball player? "Someone who really loves the game," said Hurley. "I look for a player with good character, and a strong worth ethic in the classroom and on the court." Hurley wants his team to be challenged; this year they have played five NCAA DII teams in a row, including Northern Kentucky University. "I think we competed pretty well," said the coach, who added that he would like to see UC Clermont basketball become either a NCAA Division III or an NAIA program.

To watch an interview with UC Clermont College men's basketball coach, visit the website [www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5FMSeJUXz0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5FMSeJUXz0)



### Your Amazing Heart

*Your heart beats about 100,000 times in one day and about 35 million times in a year. During an average lifetime, the human heart will beat more than 2.5 billion times.*

### Septic System Rehab Help

The Clermont County General Health District will accept applications from county homeowners for the repair or replacement of failing household sewage disposal systems between January 25 and February 24, 2012; grant funding is also available to connect eligible homes to public sewers. The grant funding for the program is available through Community Development Block Grants and the Water Pollution Control Federation. Eligible homes must be owner occupied and applicants must meet income and asset requirements. All

property taxes and inspection fees must be current; there can be no judgments against the property.

For additional information about funding for septic system rehabilitation, call Donna with the Clermont County General Health District at (513) 732-7601 or visit the website [www.ClermontHealthDistrict.org](http://www.ClermontHealthDistrict.org)

## Clean Out Your Medicine Drawer

*Circle April 28 on Your Calendar*

The Clermont County Sheriff's Office reports that over 300 pounds of old medications, primarily pain medicine, was collected at sites throughout the county during the October 2011 National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, sponsored by the Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Agency.

In 2010, 49 Clermont County citizens lost their lives to prescription drug overdoses; the Coalition for a Drug Free Clermont County indicates a first step in prevention is to safely remove unwanted and unused medications from circulation.



"Events like the Drug Take Back Day gets these types of medications out of medicine cabinets and away from possible misuse by others," said Clermont County Sheriff A.J. "Tim" Rodenberg. According to the 2010 Pride Student Drug Use Survey, 6 percent of students in grades 6 through 12 in the greater Cincinnati region reported abusing prescription drugs. "An estimated two-thirds of youth between the ages of 12 and 17, who have abused pain relievers, say they got them from their friends or relatives, often without their knowledge," said Director of the Coalition for a Drug-Free Clermont County Heidi Nykolayko. "Safely disposing of unused or unwanted medications is a critical step in protecting youth by decreasing access to the drugs."

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) encourages

citizens to take old, outdated medications out of their original containers and mix them with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter. The medication will be less appealing to children and pets, and unrecognizable to people who may intentionally go through your trash. The FDA also recommends putting the materials in a sealable bag, empty can, or other container to prevent the medication from leaking or breaking out of a garbage bag. The agency also stresses that before disposing of medication, all identifying information on the prescription label should be scratched out, to make it unreadable. This will help protect your identity and the privacy of your personal health information.

Across the Cincinnati area, an estimated 4,000 pounds of drug were turned into law enforcement during the 2011 National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Another take back day is being organized for April 28, 2012. For more information about local drop-off locations, visit the Drug Enforcement Agency website at [www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/index.html](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html); that site will be updated as the event gets closer and sites are secured. To contact the Coalition for a Drug Free Clermont County, call (513) 735-8159.

### No more telemarketing phone calls

The National Do Not Call Registry gives you an opportunity to limit the telemarketing calls you receive. Once you register your phone number, telemarketers covered by the National Do Not Call Registry have up to 31 days from the date you register to stop calling you.



**NATIONAL  
DO NOT CALL  
REGISTRY**



## Clermont Park Events

By: Keith Robinson, Park District

### Maple Syrup for Homeschoolers

Monday, February 13, 11 a.m. – Pattison Park

*Bring your homeschooler to learn the ins and outs of maple syruping and sample some of our award winning syrup. Call (513) 876-9013 to sign up. Fee is \$2 per person; registration deadline is February 9.*



### Sugaring Open House

Saturday, February 18, 1 p.m. – Pattison Park Lodge

*Everyone is invited for a day in the sugarbush! Learn to tap trees and turn sap into syrup in this favorite wintertime activity. End the journey in the Sugar Shack to see how syrup is made.*



### Winter Hike

Sunday, February 19, 1 p.m. – Sycamore Park

*If you've got cabin fever, then we've got the cure! Lace up your boots and hit the trails for this three mile hike. Winter is a great time to explore the trails and you'll be rewarded with some wonderful views of the East Fork River valley. Warm up with hot chocolate after the hike.*

### Maple Syrup for Preschoolers

Wednesday, February 22, 1 p.m. – Pattison Park

*Bring your preschooler to the park for a taste of real maple syrup. Children will get the chance to learn the process of making maple syrup, from tree to table, with lots of hands on activities. Meet inside the lodge. Call (513) 876-9013 to sign up; fee is \$1 per person.*

### Woodcock Watch

Thursday, February 23, 6 p.m. – Crooked Run Nature Preserve

*Just like clockwork, American Woodcocks return to Ohio each winter to establish their territory. The males exhibit a unique aerial courtship display each evening in late winter and early spring. Join the naturalist as we search for these secretive, seldom seen birds. Meet at the visitor center.*



### Salamanders

Saturday, February 25, 10 a.m. – Crooked Run Nature Preserve

*Though snow may still be on the ground and ice is still thick, the salamanders are on the move.*

*In the chill of the night air, these amazing amphibians emerge, heading to woodland ponds looking for mates. Join the naturalist in a hunt for these secretive creatures and discover what salamander species are hiding beneath our feet.*



# Clermont County Permit Central NEWS

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

## *Ice Dam Dangers*

An ice dam is a buildup of ice and water that works its way under the roofing. When snow and ice of the roof melts (caused by warmth from the attic or the sun) the melted water runs down the roof. When the water hits the cold area of roof over the eaves, it refreezes. As more melting water hits the cold spot, it begins to "stack up" and eventually forms an ice dam. In a worst case scenario, water building up behind the ice dam may back up under the shingles and seep through the roofing felt around nails and staples. This can warp or decay sheathing, cause excessive moisture buildup in the attic, degrade insulation performance, cause interior leaks and stains, and over time cause structural damage to trusses, ceilings and walls. Heat loss from the house to the attic tends to be the primary cause of ice dams. Escaping heat from interior rooms enters the attic and warms the underside of the roof, causing the ice dam cycle to begin.

Reducing or eliminating the heat on the underside of the roof is the most effective way to prevent ice dams. Deicing or snow melting systems may also be used to prevent ice dams. Having a well-insulated attic reduces the heat under roof, and it is an excellent way to increase energy efficiency and comfort. A properly ventilated attic deters ice dams by keeping the underside of the roof cool and preventing the snow from melting prematurely. Ventilation also prevents moisture buildup and keeps the underside of the roof cooler in the summer, which helps lengthen the life of the shingles. Signs of



inadequate ventilation include rusty nails or rust spots on insulation caused by moisture forming and dripping off nails, frost buildup during the winter, or possibly a lingering musty smell. The very best way to create ventilation is with continuous soffit vents and a continuous ridge vent. Warm air leaves through the ridge vent at the top of the attic and cool air is drawn in through the soffits at the bottom of the attic. A ridge vent is easiest to install during a complete roofing project. As an option, multiple individual roof vents (situated within a few feet of the ridge) can be installed into an existing roof (as can individual soffit vents). As a general guideline, the ideal vent-to-attic-space ratio of 1:300 means 1 square foot of venting for every 300 square feet of space. The attic venting should be split between the ridge and the soffits.

### ***Ice Dam Dangers*** (continued)

Know that when installing new roofing, re-roofing or new electric work for deicing or snow melting equipment, an application for approval should be submitted to Clermont County Permit Central by calling the office at (513) 732-7213 or visit the website [www.permit.clermontcountyohio.gov](http://www.permit.clermontcountyohio.gov).



## **Do you have a smoke alarm?**

One of the most important fire safety devices for the home is the smoke alarm. After becoming generally available in the early 1970's home smoke alarm sales grew rapidly and the price fell, so that by 1991, 88 percent of US homes had at least one, and alarms could be purchased for under \$10.

Several studies have concluded that when working smoke alarms are present, the chance of dying from the fire is cut in half. The smoke alarms currently in place have saved thousands of lives, but several problems exist. First, the 12 percent of homes without alarms have more than half of the fires; second, it is estimated that a third of the smoke alarms in place are not working, often due to failure to replace a worn out battery; and third, many homes do not have as many smoke alarms as are needed to protect the occupants properly. In this section, we will examine how to protect your family with smoke alarms.



### ***How Many Alarms are Needed?***

The primary job of a smoke alarm is to protect you from fires while you are asleep. Thus, your alarms should be located between any sleeping persons and the rest of the house ' outside bedrooms or sleeping areas. But tests conducted in the 1970's clearly showed that this might not be enough.

In multi-story homes, fires on a floor level without a smoke alarm can grow to dangerous conditions before sufficient smoke can rise in a stairway to set off an alarm on the upper floor. Based on this observation, most codes require that additional smoke alarms be located on

each floor level of the home.

A closed door provides protection from smoke on the other side, but will also prevent smoke from reaching a smoke alarm. This is particularly a problem in bedrooms. If you sleep with your bedroom door closed, you should add a smoke alarm in the bedroom; particularly if you smoke in the bedroom or there is a TV, air conditioner, or other major appliances in the bedroom that might start a fire. If you sleep with the bedroom door open, the alarm in the hall outside will detect a fire in the bedroom or elsewhere.

There are a few places where a smoke alarm should not be placed. These include kitchens and garages (cooking fumes and car exhaust are likely to set them off) and unheated attics and crawl spaces (where it can get too cold or hot for the electronics to work properly). Fires beginning in these areas are generally detected by the other smoke alarms in enough time to escape safely. If an alarm is desired in these spaces, heat detectors are available.

For more information, visit the website [www.usfa.fema.gov/](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/).

## Special Thanks to Texas Roadhouse

Milford Texas Roadhouse and its patrons donated a total of \$810.00 in gift cards and vouchers to Veterans Service Commission. Their Marketing Manager, Stacey Swift was present to deliver the donation. Texas Roadhouse has been a long time supporter of our Clermont County Veterans and has always stepped up to the plate with their overwhelming generosity. We would like to extend a very special thank you to both Milford Texas Roadhouse and its patrons. Their kindness is greatly appreciated. The cards will be distributed to our veteran community at the discretion of the VS Commissioner's and staff.



### Your Amazing Heart

*The heart pumps about 1 million barrels of blood during an average lifetime—that's enough to fill more than 3 super tankers.*

### Our Favorite Non-Chocolate Valentine's Candy!

- At one time, conversation candies were made into many shapes including ho shoes, baseballs and watches
- About 8 billion hearts will be produced this year; that's enough candy to stretch from Rome, Italy to Valentine, Ariz. and back again 20 times
- The peak selling season for conversation hearts last only six weeks, but confectioners produce the candy for nearly eleven months of the year
- At least 10 new conversation heart sayings are introduced each year. Recent additions include "Yeah Right", "Call Home" and "Puppy Love"
- Each year the television game show JEOPARDY! includes questions about conversation hearts on its Valentine's Day show



Source: [www.CandyUSA.com](http://www.CandyUSA.com)

*Welcome  
New County  
Employee*

*Henry Hill  
CCWRD*

### *Did you know?*

*Nine American presidents never attended college? Washington, Jackson, Van Buren, Taylor, Fillmore, Lincoln, A. Johnson, Cleveland, and Truman*

*James Buchanan was the only president never to marry*

*Eight Presidents died in office: W. Harrison (after having served only one month), Taylor, Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley, Harding, F. Roosevelt, and Kennedy.*



By: Tammy Craig, Clermont Library

### Little House in the Library

Saturday, February 11, 2 p.m. – Amelia Branch  
*Participants age 7-12 are invited to come dressed in prairie clothes for games, crafts, and butter making. For more information or to register, call (513) 752-5580.*

### Valentine's Day Family Fun Night

Monday, February 13, 6:30 p.m. – Milford-Miami Township Branch  
*Bring the whole family to create cards and listen to stories. For more information or to register, call (513) 248-0700.*

### Fancy Nancy Valentine Tea Party

Tuesday, February 14, 6:30 p.m. – Owensville Branch  
*Join us in your fanciest attire for a mini charm school class, fancy flower bouquet making, and enjoy some fancy tea party treats! For more information or to register, call (513) 732-6084.*



### Seuss-a-Palooza

Tuesday, February 28, 6 p.m. – Williamsburg Branch  
*Come to the library for wonderful and whimsical Dr. Seuss activities, stories, games, and crafts for participants in grades K-4. For more information or to register, call (513) 724-1070.*

### Cincinnati Memories

Saturday, February 18, 10:30 a.m. – Amelia Branch  
*Jeanne Rolfes from the Cincinnati Preservation Association will take us on a virtual tour of downtown Cincinnati beginning at Fountain Square, with stops at Carew Tower, Netherland Plaza Hotel, Lytle Park, Taft Museum, and finishing at Union Terminal. For more information or to register, call (513) 752-5580.*



### Furious Birds

Monday, February 13, 3:30 p.m. – Bethel Branch  
*Ages 6 – 18 are invited to come and create their own pom-pom birds to launch. For more information call (513) 734-2619.*

### Happy Birthday Abe!

Monday, February 13, 6:30 p.m. – Goshen Branch  
*Celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday with cake, punch, and crafts, and of course, a story or two about Abe! For more information or to register, call (513) 722-1221.*

### Computer Instruction for Adults

Monday – Thursday, during library hours - New Richmond Branch  
*Adults can call and schedule one-on-one help with computer basics, creating an email account, and resume help. For more information or to sign up, call (513) 553-0570.*

### Lego Club

Saturday, February 4, 10:30 a.m. – Amelia Branch  
*Participants age 6 – 11 are invited to try the Lego challenge or build something of their own choice. For more information or to register, call (513) 752-5580.*



## ***Kitten Rescued from Tanker Trap!***

On January 17, 2012, while getting gas at the Kroger's in West Chester someone heard a cat crying. Because the person who heard the sounds is an animal rescuer, she began to look for the cry of the kitten. She went to every car asking if they had a cat, but everyone continued to say the same thing, "no, I do not have a cat." She continued to yell, "here kitty, kitty" as she followed the cry, she walked up to a tanker that was dropping fuel at the gas station. The closer she got to the tanker, she could hear the cry louder. She asked the truck driver if he had a cat, he said no, but, he that he had heard a cat crying all day.

So what was all day? The trucker said that he had started out in Highland County, Kentucky, then on to Indianapolis, then onto Cincinnati, then onto Lebanon and finally ending there in West Chester. Holy Cow!!

After hearing all this she started yelling again, "here kitty, kitty." Finally she saw a little head sticking out of the area where the tanker hooks up to the semi. Her heart sank! The little thing was stuck and covered

By: Bonnie Morrison, Friends of Noah, Inc.

in grease. She was finally able to position her arm in the area and pulled the kitten out of the grease filled area. It was so frightened, but so happy to be saved, safe and out of the cold. Many calls were made for someone to take in this little cat. The call of the wild was answered by Evelyn Black who contacted Friends of Noah where he is now safe in the loving arms of a rescue facility and has been named Tanker. Tanker was given a de-greaser bath and will be prepared for adoption. You can see him on Friends of Noah's Petfinder and Facebook pages. What a life for such a young and sweet little guy!



### **Your Amazing Heart**

*Give a tennis ball a good, hard squeeze. You're using about the same amount of force your heart uses to pump blood out to the body. Even at rest, the muscles of the heart work hard—twice as hard as the leg muscles of a person sprinting.*

## **Humane Society Satellite Adoptions**

The Clermont County Humane Society will be holding satellite adoptions again in 2012 at the Eastgate Petsmart store. The satellite adoptions are a great way to meet some of the amazing animals available for adoption through the Clermont County Animal Shelter.

Satellite adoptions will be held on the following dates in March, 2012:

Saturday, March 3, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Saturday, March 17, 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 (513) 732-8854.



# Clermont County Animal Shelter Critters

call 732-8854 for more information



*Marley*



*Spike*



*Lamb Chop*



*Valentine*



*Rosie*



*Trixie*



*Cartman*



*Betsy*



*Dakota*



# 732-8854

[www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov](http://www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov)





### By the Numbers:

- Winter residential building fires result in an estimated average of 945 deaths, 3,825 injuries, and \$1,708,000,000 in property loss each year.
- Fires in one and two family dwellings account for 67 percent of all winter residential building fires.
- Cooking is the leading cause of all winter residential building fires.
- Winter residential building fires occur mainly in the early evening hours, peaking from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Although at its highest in December, residential building fire incidence is collectively highest in the 3 winter months of January, February, and March.

## Ohio's Top Bird

Ohio designated the northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) as official state bird in 1933. One of America's favorite backyard birds, cardinals are distinctive in appearance and song, known for their "cheer cheer cheer," "whit-chew whit-chew" and "purty purty purty" whistles.

Male cardinals are a brilliant scarlet red, females a buffy brown with reddish wings; both have a jet black mask, pronounced crest, and heavy bill. The cardinal sings nearly year-round, and the male aggressively defends his 4-acre territory (male cardinals have been seen attacking small red objects mistaken as other males).

Northern cardinals breed 2-3 times each season. The female builds the nest and tends the hatchlings for about 10 days while the male brings food. The male then takes over the care of this first brood while the female moves on to a new nest and lays a second clutch of eggs.



The cardinal is the state bird of 7 states: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Source: [www.statesymbolsusa.org/Ohio/bird\\_cardinal.html](http://www.statesymbolsusa.org/Ohio/bird_cardinal.html)

# *New Child Support Customer Service Portal*

On January 20, 2012 the Ohio Office of Child Support announced that the new Child Support Customer Service Web Portal became available to the public. Customers can log in to the Child Support Customer Service portal from the Office of Child Support internet Home Page using the following link:

<http://jfs.ohio.gov/Ocs/index.stm> .

This release is the first phase of the interactive web portal that will provide child support customers with on-demand, case specific, address, employment, health insurance, and financial history information, along with answers to frequently asked questions regarding the child support program.

The portal will be operational and available twenty-three (23) hours a day, seven (7) days a week,



throughout the year (with one hour of down time nightly for maintenance.)

If you receive your support through the Ohio e-Quick-Pay® Debit Master Card®, please call 1-800-686-1556 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.



## **Your Amazing Heart**

*The aorta, the largest artery in the body, is almost the diameter of a garden hose. Capillaries, on the other hand, are so small that it takes ten of them to equal the thickness of a human hair.*

## ***Get a copy of your Ohio birth certificate online!***

The Clermont County General Health District now offers citizens the opportunity to order an Ohio birth certificate online, using a credit card. A lot of people find it difficult to get to the Health District office during regular working hours, so the online option will make it easier for them to get their Ohio birth certificate.

Once an order is placed online for an Ohio birth

certificate, it is generally mailed within two days of processing, expedited shipping is also available. To obtain an Ohio birth certificate online, visit [www.ClermontHealthDistrict.org](http://www.ClermontHealthDistrict.org). You may also stop by the office Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; the office is located at 2275 Bauer Rd. in Batavia. Call (513) 732-7499 for additional information.

## Save Money on Your Energy Bills.....Now!!!!

Cutting back unnecessary energy use is an easy way to keep your hard earned money in your pocket. Here are some suggestions you can do at home, at absolutely no cost to you.

**Let the sunshine in.** Open drapes and let the sun heat your home for free (get them closed again at sundown so they help insulate).



### ENERGY SAVING TIPS

**Rearrange your rooms.** Move your furniture around so you are sitting near interior walls - exterior walls and older windows are likely to be drafty. Don't sit in the draft.

**Keep it shut.** Traditional fireplaces are an energy loser - it's best not to use them because they pull heated air out of the house and up the chimney. When not in use, make absolutely sure the damper is closed. Before closing the damper, make sure that you don't have any smoldering embers. If you decide not to use a fireplace, then block off the chimney with a piece of rigid insulation from the hardware store that fits snugly into the space (dampers don't shut fully without some leaking).

**Eliminate wasted energy.** Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms. Unplug that spare refrigerator in the garage if you don't truly need it - this seemingly convenient way to keep extra drinks cold adds 10-25 percent to your electric bill. Turn off kitchen and bath-ventilating fans after they've done their job - these fans can blow out a house-full of heated air if inadvertently left on. Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning to prevent up to 8 percent of your furnace-heated air from going up the chimney.

**Shorten showers.** Simply reducing that lingering time by a few minutes can save hundreds of gallons of hot water per month for a family of four. Showers account for 2/3 of your water heating costs. Cutting your showers in half will reduce your water heating costs by 33 percent.

**Use appliances efficiently.** Do only full loads when using your dishwasher and clothes washer. Use the cold water setting on your clothes washer when you can. Using cold water reduces your washer's energy use by 75 percent. Be sure to clean your clothes dryer's lint trap after each use. Use the moisture-sensing automatic drying setting on your dryer if you have one.

**Put your computer and monitor to sleep.** Most computers come with the power management features turned off. On computers using Windows, open your power management software and set it so your computer goes to sleep if you're away from your machine for 5 to 15 minutes. Those who use Macintosh computers look for the setting in your Control Panels called "Energy Saver" and set it accordingly. When you're done using your computer, turn it off (see next tip). Do not leave it in sleep mode overnight as it is still drawing a small amount of power.

**Plug "leaking energy" in electronics.** Many new TVs, VCRs, chargers, computer peripherals and other electronics use electricity even when they are switched "off." Although these "standby losses" are only a few watts each, they add up to more than 50 watts in a typical home that is consumed all the time. If possible, unplug electronic devices and chargers that have a block-shaped transformer on the plug when they are not in use. For computer scanners, printers and other devices that are plugged into a power strip, simply switch off the power strip after shutting down your computer. The best way to minimize these losses of electricity is to purchase ENERGY STAR® products.



For more energy saving tips, visit the website [www.ConsumerEnergyCenter.gov](http://www.ConsumerEnergyCenter.gov).

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