



# On the Move

a newsletter for citizens  
January 2011

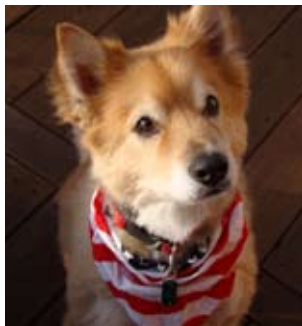
[www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov](http://www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov)

Commissioners: Bob Proud, Ed Humphrey, and Archie Wilson

## Why License Dogs?

Ohio law requires that every person who owns or keeps a dog must license that dog each year. 2011 dog licenses are on sale through January 31, 2011 for \$14. They can be purchased at several locations throughout the county including the Clermont Animal Shelter and the Auditor's Office. After January 31, tags will be sold for \$28.

The Clermont County Humane Society, for the past 14 years, has been contracted by Clermont



By: Nadora Hill, Clermont County Humane Society

County to manage the county Animal Control Operation. The sale of dog licenses is the primary revenue source for this operation, which includes the employment of animal control officers, operating the animal shelter, containment of stray dogs, enforcement of animal cruelty laws, and an after-hours emergency program for sick/injured stray dogs.

In a county with 452 square miles to cover, the three officers

responded to 4,000 complaints in 2009, involving animals either running loose, being neglected/abused, or abandoned. Of those charged with animal cruelty, there was a 100 percent conviction rate.

What this operation looks like can vary, depending upon how much revenue is generated in any given year. It is estimated that only 50 percent of the dogs in Clermont County are licensed. Warren and Butler counties are way ahead of Clermont in terms of sales volume for dog licenses.

If you have already purchased your dog's license, thank you! You are doing your part! If you haven't, there is still time to make that purchase.

No one expects their dog will get lost, but it happens every day. The cost of a dog license is such a small price to pay when you think about how much your pet means to you and how much your pet depends upon you for his/her safety. Nearly 5,000 animals come through the shelter annually, many of them without a license. Not only does the license help to reunite you with your pet, but you are funding a critical operation for your community and the animals who need this service the most.

For a complete listing of sales locations to purchase a dog license, visit [www.ClermontAuditor.org](http://www.ClermontAuditor.org). For more information about the Clermont County Humane Society, visit [www.clermontcountyanimalshelter.com](http://www.clermontcountyanimalshelter.com).

### Inside this issue:

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**Beginning next month:**  
*Meet the new leaders in Clermont County!*

### Do You Have the Best Looking Dog in Clermont County?

Contest details on next page!



## Search is on for the best looking dog in Clermont County!

Every dog owner thinks his or her pet is the best in the county; now you have the opportunity to tell us why!

As a way to increase awareness about the importance of dog licensing, the Clermont

County Humane Society along with the Clermont County Auditor's Office and the Board of Clermont County Commissioners is offering all 2011



licensed dogs in the county the opportunity to compete to become the 2011 Poster Pooch for the Clermont County Humane Society.

In addition to submitting a picture, dog owners are asked to complete a brief entry form; it

is available below or

on the website [www.ClermontCountyAnimalShelter.com](http://www.ClermontCountyAnimalShelter.com).

"So far, the dogs entered are not only beautiful, their stories are amazing," said Nadora Hill,

president of the Clermont County Humane Society. Dog owners have until January 31, 2011 to email their pictures and entry forms to

[klehr@co.clermont.oh.us](mailto:klehr@co.clermont.oh.us). The winner will be announced in February.

Questions about the contest can be directed to Clermont County Communications Director Kathy Lehr at (513) 732-7597.



Check out the constantly updated list of dogs entered in the competition at:

<http://www.facebook.com/ClermontCounty>

Click on the Best Looking Dog in Clermont County photo gallery!

## Do You Have the Best Looking Dog in Clermont County?

*Enter your dog's picture to be the 2011 Clermont County Humane Society Poster Pooch!*

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your dog's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your dog's age and breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Why your dog should be named the 2011 Clermont County Humane Society Poster Pooch?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your 2011 dog license number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Send entry form and JPG photo of your dog to [klehr@co.clermont.oh.us](mailto:klehr@co.clermont.oh.us) by January 31, 2011

## Community Responds to Request for Assistance

“Because of the generosity of this community, the holidays were a little brighter for 350 Clermont County foster children,” said Sanna Gast with the Community Toy Chest, an agency that provides gifts to children in the care of the Clermont County Department of Job and Family Services. “In early December, we were really worried that we wouldn’t



be able to find sponsors for all of the children; we had 80 children without sponsors. When the community found out that we were running short, they came through for the children. Thank you so very much.”

“While there is a greater need during the holiday season to sponsor children,

***Sanna Gast prepares to help deliver gifts donated to the Community Toy Chest***

we accept donations year round,” said Tim Dick, deputy director of Clermont County Children’s Protective Services. “Donations to the Toy Chest can be utilized for birthday gifts, graduations gifts, and at other times to help these children get through a difficult period in their lives.”

To make a donation to the Clermont County Community Toy Chest call (513) 732-7264.

### **Become a Weather Spotter** *Free Training Set for January 31*

In an average year, the National Weather Service (NWS) reports there are 10,000 severe thunderstorms, 5,000 floods, and more than 1,000 tornadoes that occur across the United States. Preparedness and early detection can help people weather these types of situations.

On Monday,

January 31, 2011, the Clermont Emergency Management Agency and the NWS invites citizens, school and community groups, emergency responders, and Scout troops to attend Weather Spotter Training at the New Richmond High School Auditorium. The free training begins at 6:30 p.m. at the school, located at 1131 Bethel-New Richmond Road.

If you would like to sign up for the free

Weather Spotter Training, contact the Clermont County Emergency Management Agency at (513) 732-7661.

### **Commissioners January Meeting Schedule**

Reorganizational meeting set for Monday, January 10 at 1 p.m.

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



## Holiday Spirit Thriving at UC Clermont

### Food & Shoe Drives Benefit Community

By: Mae Hanna, UC Clermont College

The holiday spirit is alive and well at UC Clermont this season. The college community supported several worthy causes in the community.

The college's Philanthropy Committee delivered over 120 pair of shoes to Batavia Elementary School and another 40 pair to the Clermont County Homeless Shelter. "We really appreciate the generosity and willingness of UC Clermont College to come together and make a difference in our community," said Blaine Kelley, chair of the committee.

Breakfast with Santa, a free event, was another great success this year with more than 200 community members in attendance. The project was

spearheaded by Students Helping Our Community Kinship (SHOCK)—which promotes philanthropy SHOCK and supported by other student groups including the Chemistry Club and Student Tribunal.

"The Breakfast with Santa event was largely a result of the efforts of the many students involved. From planning to execution, they were phenomenal. They represented the high quality and caring nature of students that can be found at UC Clermont. I am very proud of the efforts they have put in and they should all be pleased with the results," said



Zach Bartush, Americorps VISTA, Service Learning and Civic Engagement coordinator.

Additionally, the Chemistry Club collected 278 canned and box food items which were donated to the YWCA.



## Recycle Your Cut Holiday Tree

The Clermont County Park District is accepting holiday trees for recycling. Cut trees can be dropped off at Pattison Park by the lake until January 16, 2011. The trees will be chipped and mulched. Please remove all decorations from the trees before dropping them off.

For other drop off locations in Clermont County, contact the Office of Environmental Quality at (513) 732-7894 or visit the website [www.oeq.net](http://www.oeq.net).

## 2010 Adopt-a-Senior Holiday Program, Most Successful Ever!

By: Linda Eppler, Clermont Senior Services

This year the adopt-a-senior program of Clermont Senior Services has been the biggest ever. Estimates suggest that a total of 600-700 seniors received at least one gift through this program. The agency coordinated about 400 matches between seniors and volunteers. Numerous other seniors received items from the gift pantry, as well as gift-wrapped boxes of personal care items donated by scout troops and elementary school classes.

Director of Communications, Linda Eppler, commented, "The economy never seems to have an effect on donations. The response has been amazing. The quantity of gifts and the care with which they are wrapped is overwhelming. We've had an unusual number of higher priced items donated this year too, including flat screen TVs, microwave ovens, and vacuum cleaners."

There were so many gifts that it appeared it would not be possible to get them all delivered by Christmas. However, dedicated staff and volunteers worked hard to make it happen. Some volunteers delivered for several days, making mul-

tiples trips to pick up gifts, and a few staff members used vacation days to deliver gifts. Every single gift was delivered by December 22.

The agency has been receiving tearful phone calls and thank you cards from grateful seniors. One man was extremely thankful for the gifts he received, especially a blanket. His voice message said he was under his blanket as he spoke. He said he ran out of kerosene a couple days before and the temperature was 39 degrees in his home. CSS immediately arranged for kerosene to be delivered and his heat was back on that day. Another man said it was the best Christmas he's had since 1945. He was eight years old then; the war had just ended and everyone was celebrating. A lady was thrilled with the lavender towels that matched her bathroom.

Besides gifts for specific seniors, thousands of dollars



*In November, Clermont Senior Services built a wheelchair ramp for Marshall's wife. He wanted to give something back to the community, so he donned his Santa hat and delivered gifts for the adopt-a-senior program.*

worth of items were donated to the gift pantry, including blankets, towels, robes, sweatshirts, socks, gloves, personal care items, and more. A homeless lady called in a couple of days before the Christmas holiday. CSS was able to find an apartment for her, and provide clothing and many household items for her new home.

Besides the gifts, a whopping \$6,500 in cash and gift cards were donated as well. Eppler said, "We would like to send a heartfelt thank you to all the people of Clermont County that generously donated money and time to make this program so successful."

# Clermont County Permit Central NEWS

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

## Winter Home Projects

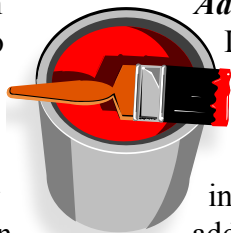
By: Carl Lamping, Permit Central

Many people think of summer as the primary time to tackle household projects. But in reality, many can be completed during the winter months when we are stuck in the house anyway. Free up some of your valuable time this summer by working on interior home projects now.

Because winter weather outside can keep you inside, focus your home improvement energy indoors. Making minor additions and updating existing features inside your home can give it a whole new feel. Try some of these home improvement ideas while winter is still here for a fresh outlook once summer arrives:

### ***Paint Walls and Ceilings***

A fresh coat of paint can add an entire new feel to a room at a reasonably low cost. Applying a new coat of your existing color can make your room look neat and clean because it will cover dirt and smudges that inevitably get on walls. For a more commanding change, try an entire new color! Look at the furniture and



features of a room and try to pick a color that combines these. Finish with a clean white color on your ceiling for a completely updated look.

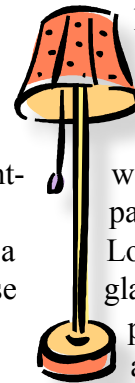
### ***Restore Furniture***

Because replacing furniture can be costly, consider updating the pieces you have. Repainting a chest or cabinet can turn something that is outdated into a unique and usable item. Because paint color becomes outdated, as well as gets cracked and chipped, consider refinishing. Because you will be indoors and chemicals can be harsh and difficult to use, invest in a heat gun to easily remove paint without the messy and environmentally hazardous chemicals.

### ***Add Accessories***

Look at replacing the little things to give the inside of your house a whole new feel. Look at lighting. Updating fixtures can add light and design elements to a room. Plug-in lamps can also be easily modernized by replacing lamp shades that often go overlooked as they wear or go out of style. Also look at door handles and

other hardware on cabinets and furniture. Little updates like changing the handles on your dresser can make a huge difference for a fresh look. If screws, nuts, or bolts are rusted or hard to remove, use a heat gun to loosen. Look at windows and make sure panes are clean and dusted. Looking out through clear glass makes your house appear newer. While you're at it, seal any drafts using a heat gun and plastic film to save money on heat.



### ***Replace Flooring***

If you have a little more money to invest into your home, replacing carpet and flooring is key to updating and something that can easily be done during the winter months. Analyze room usage and pick a carpet or flooring that is the most appropriate. For example, opt for shorter carpets or even looped berber for high-traffic areas. Hardwood floors are popular for replacing much of the linoleum flooring common a decade ago. Consider

# Permit Central News

## Neighborhood Stabilization Program

By: James Taylor, Community Planning and Development

Over the past year, Clermont County has been able to provide 16 local residents with assistance in buying homes. The *Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)* in Clermont County works with middle income families to help them purchase foreclosed homes in Clermont County. The client has to be able to get a loan from a local bank, and the program provides down payment assistance for the loan. After purchase, the program helps rehabilitate the foreclosed houses and provides the new resident with a home.

One of the NSP clients wrote a thank you to the staff for helping the family obtain a home. The following are some excerpts from that letter:

“About the beginning of October 2009, I was looking on the internet at homes for sale. I saw the house we currently live in. At this point in our lives, we had a friend that was a heating and air conditioning person. I had him come to look at the furnace. While he was there here he just made the comment, I think there is a grant on foreclosed homes in this area. The next day I was at Permit Central in Clermont County.

“On November 10, 2009 we received a letter from the county stating that we had been approved for the NSP program for help on our down payment. The first thing the county did was to get a group of contractors together to bid on the work that needed to be done. When we went to get the loan

on the house, the home needed considerable work. My friend that works on furnaces said at best the furnace may be good for a couple of years. Some of the gutters had fallen down, the hardwood floors were very dingy and needed to be redone, the roof had some issues, and the concrete driveway and sidewalk were in sad shape. Looking back I’m glad I could see potential in this house.

“I want to mention many reasons why it was worth the wait and work. Mainly, I was able to give my wife her life-long dream. Tears of joy are in my eyes as I consider this. Also, as we approach Christmas this year, I believe this is the first time since I’ve been married to her that she really is excited about Christmas to this degree. We have a beautiful Christmas tree, beautifully decorated, that she put together all by herself.”

“It would not be complete without saying thanks to all the other helping hands that helped make this dream a reality. A big thanks to all the people who have touched our hearts in any way during this process.”

The *Neighborhood Stabilization Program* has been successful and the 16 middle income families will be able to live in homes rather than in apartments. They will become a part of a community and provide property taxes for schools for their children. The families will be a part of the community and will be able to help make the communities

work to protect and educate the children.

The NSP program is also able to assist in the demolition of blighted buildings in various parts of Clermont County. The NSP program is for low income and middle income families who are able to obtain a loan on their own ability. The NSP program assists with down payment and then with the rehabilitation of the house.

The NSP program has assisted people in removing themselves from the rent cycle and will be gaining equity in the homes. They will be able to establish homes in the houses purchased. For some people this is the first time they have been able to live in a house.

### Winter Home Projects (continued)

purchasing flooring and installing it yourself to cut the price significantly. Using a heat gun to easily loosen adhesive on old flooring can save time and frustration.

Looking at improvements to your home's interior is something that can be done easily during winter. From cabinet handles to carpet, spend the sometimes long hours of winter working on home projects. This will not only add a new updated feel to your home, but also free up time during the busy summer months for additional projects - or some fun in the sun.

## *Around the County.....*



*Clermont Commissioner Bob Proud congratulates Jordan Shouse of Bethel Boy Scout Troop 196 after Shouse received his Eagle Scout Award on November 28, 2010.*

*Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouting program of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Since its introduction in 1911, the Eagle Scout rank has been earned by more than 2 million young men. The title of Eagle Scout is held for life, thus giving rise to the phrase "Once an Eagle, always an Eagle."*

*Jordan, a senior at Bethel Tate High School, is the son of Clermont Park District employee Ron Shouse.*

## **Rodenberg Sworn In as New Domestic Court Judge**

Kathleen Rodenberg is the new Domestic Relations Court Judge in Clermont County; she replaces Judge Michael Voris who retired at the end of 2010.

Rodenberg has been a practicing attorney for the past 30 years and has served as a magistrate in Domestic and Municipal Courts.

Husband, Sheriff A.J. "Tim" Rodenberg is quite proud of Kathleen's accomplishments, and swore her into office during a ceremony and reception at the couple's Pierce Township home on Jan 1, 2011.



*Kathleen Rodenberg's mom, Mary McPhillips held the Bible as her husband Sheriff Rodenberg administered the oath of office*

# Clermont Park Events

By: Keith Robinson, Park District

## Nature at Night

Friday, January 7, 6 p.m. – Shor Park

*Enjoy the sights and sounds of nature at night as we explore the newest park within the Clermont County Park District. We'll listen for owls, coyotes, and other nocturnal creatures as we explore the open fields in the dark.*

## Winter Bird Count

Saturday, January 8, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Chilo Lock #34 Park, Crooked Run Nature Preserve, Kelley Nature Preserve, Sycamore Park, Shor Park

*Join Park District naturalists for our annual winter inventory of which birds are inhabiting our parks. We'll spend the morning counting which species are in our parks, and then you are invited for lunch at the Chilo Lock #34 Park Visitor Center and Museum for some hot chocolate and soup. No birding experience is necessary. Call (513) 876-9013 to sign up in advance and select which location you would prefer to participate.*

## Winter Hike

Sunday, January 16, 1 p.m. – Sycamore Park

*Beat the winter blues by getting outside and enjoying a challenging, yet rewarding hike through Sycamore Park and the Wilson Nature Preserve. We'll enjoy some wonderful wintertime views of the East Fork River Valley and look for signs of winter wildlife. The hike will last approximately 90 minutes and will include a steep incline. Call (513) 876-9013 to sign up.*

## Birds of Prey

Saturday, January 22, 10 a.m. – Shor Park

*See taxidermy mounts of local hawks and owls before hiking the trails in search of these spectacular hunters. All ages are welcome; bring binoculars if you have a pair!*

## Winter Tracks

Saturday, January 15, 10 a.m. – Wilson Nature Preserve

*Snow, slush, and mud make a great canvas for animal tracks. Be prepared for a challenging hike as we follow the trails in search of evidence of local animals still active in the cold winter months. Meet at the Sycamore Park Bridge.*



## Family Friendly Night Hike

Friday, January 28, 6:30 p.m. – Sycamore Park

*Bring the whole family along for a walk in the dark at Sycamore Park. We'll discover what animals use the park at night as we try to lure in an Eastern Screech Owl. The hike will take place on the paved blacktop trail, so strollers or wagons are welcome.*

## Decoy Carving

Saturdays in January (8, 15, 22, 29), 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. – Chilo Lock #34 Park

*Decoy carving with Wayne McClain is returning for a third year! This year's decoy will be a Canada goose. Participants must have some woodworking or carving experience. The fee of \$30 includes all tools and materials needed; pre-registration is required. Call (513) 876-9013 to sign up.*



**Duck decoy carving classes are offered in January at the Chilo Lock #34 Park**

**Bored to Board**

Fridays in January, 2 p.m. – Bethel Branch  
*Transform your Fridays from 'bored' to 'board'! All ages are welcome for Board Game Day! Scrabble and other board games will be available for you to play with friends or other library patrons. For more information, call (513) 734-2619.*

**For the Birds!**

Tuesday, January 11, 6:30 p.m. – New Richmond Branch  
*Teens, adults, and school age children (with an adult helper) are invited to make a birdseed bell and nest helper that can be hung in your yard. All supplies will be provided; please pre-register for this program. To register call (513) 553-0570 or online at [www.clermontlibrary.org/events](http://www.clermontlibrary.org/events).*

**Cupcakes for Kids**

Monday, January 31, 6:30 p.m. – Owensville Branch  
*Tim Winland will show children how to decorate cupcakes. There will also be some sweet stories! All supplies are provided; to register call (513) 732-6084.*



**Computer Instruction for Adults**

During the month of January by appointment – Felicity Branch  
*Adults are invited to schedule an appointment to receive free one-on-one computer instruction, including help with computer basics, email, internet searching, and Microsoft Word. Job search and resume assistance are also available. Call (513) 876-4134 for an appointment.*



**Family Fun Time: Winter Fun**

Monday, January 10, 7 p.m. – Goshen Branch  
*The whole family is invited for stories, games, and crafts. For more information or to register, call (513) 722-1221.*

**Guess the Author**

During the month of January – Milford-Miami Township Branch  
*Teens and adults are invited to see if you can identify New York Times bestselling authors by the first lines of their novels during the entire month of January; you may enter once per week.*

*Correct entries will be entered into a grand prize drawing at the end of the month. For more information call (513) 248-0700.*



**Book Chat for Adults**

Monday, January 3, 6 p.m. – Union Township Branch  
*This month's title will be **The Diary of Mattie Spenser** by Sandra Dallas. Copies of the book are available for check out at the library. For more information, call (513) 528-1744.*

**Join the Cardinal Quilters**

Tuesday, January 25, 6 p.m. – Felicity Branch  
*All skill levels of quilters are invited to share ideas and work on quilting projects. For more information, call (513) 876-4134.*



## Voris Retires from Domestic Court

“I sincerely hope I have helped families in conflict deal with a very difficult situation,” said Clermont County Domestic Relations Court Judge Michael Voris, retiring after 28 years on the bench, 24 of them in Domestic Relations Court. He was the first judge to oversee Domestic Relations Court in the county; the court hears divorce, dissolution of marriage and domestic violence cases. “When I began hearing cases, my mission was to make this a user friendly, positive court and I think that has been accomplished,” he said.



On Wednesday, December 29, family, friends, and coworkers gathered at Clermont Domestic Relations Court to say thanks to Judge Voris, who has given so much to the community.

Pictured above: Commissioner Bob Proud, Judge Voris, and Sheriff A.J. “Tim” Rodenberg

## Walker Retires from Common Pleas Court



“When I first took the bench in Clermont County Common Pleas Court, we were pulling names out of a Bingo wheel; there was not a single computer in the courthouse,” said Clermont County Common Pleas Court Judge William Walker, who retired in December 2010, after 24 years on the bench. “Today, just about everything at the courthouse is computerized, greatly increasing overall efficiency. Working with the University of Cincinnati, we were among the first in the state to launch a computerized jury selection process.” Walker said another major accomplishment of the court system during his time on the bench, was the construction of the new Clermont County Common Pleas Court that opened in 1998.

## 130 Years of County Service!

Clermont General Health District workers were honored during a recent Employee Recognition Dinner. The 12 employees have a combined total of 130 years of county service!



*They are (from left to right): Julianne Nesbit, Kevin Kinzbach, Becky Bilby, Karen Dunn, Tim Kelly, Carol Yeager, Dave Hays, Angela Lipps, Robert Wildey, Scott Bradley, Charlie Benjamin, and Eric Ratcliff*

## The Rockin' Adventures of Peter Rabbit in UC Clermont's Theatre

By: Mae Hanna, UC Clermont College

The *Rockin' Adventures of Peter Rabbit* will be presented February 4 and 5 in UC Clermont College's Krueger Auditorium. Beatrix Potter's most famous long-eared character grows up into a rambunctious teen — and he still can't stay out of the McGregor's garden! It seems that the Rabbit family must contend with the young Peter, whose goal is to get out of the humdrum life in a rabbit's hole and play his guitar at "The Farm."

Calico Children's Theatre is a UC Clermont community initiative geared towards families with children ages 3-13 years of age. The cost of tickets per performance is: \$6 for adults and \$4 for children, seniors and UC

students. Performances are approximately one hour in length.

### The *Rockin' Adventures of Peter Rabbit*, presented by ArtReach:

A Division of The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati is recommended for grades PreK-5

- Friday, February 4 at 7 p.m.
- Saturday, February 5 at 10:30 a.m.



Stay after the performance on Saturday February 5 to participate in a Calico Creativities Workshop that complements the performance. The cost of tickets per workshop is \$4 per child and parents are free! Workshops are approximately one hour in length.

*Once Upon a Time*, presented by ArtReach: A Division of The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati is recommended for grades K-5

- Saturday, February 5 at 12:30 p.m. in the Krueger Auditorium

This fun and interactive workshop will bring new life to classic fairy tales! With the help of professional teaching artists from The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati, your children will learn the literary elements of storytelling as they write and act out their very own new fairy tale.

For more information about the Calico Children's Theatre or Calico Creativities Workshop please contact Nikki Vargas, Arts and Events Program Manager at (513) 558-1215 or 866.446.2822 or visit the website [www.ucclermont.edu](http://www.ucclermont.edu) and click on community arts. UC Clermont College is located at 4200 Clermont College Dr. in Batavia.

## Program at Chilo Park Explores What Lies Beyond Our Galaxy

Some of the most incredible discoveries, like the Hale-Bopp comet and storms on Saturn, have been made by amateur astronomers," said Steve Rismiller, who said he first began star gazing when he was in third grade. Rismiller, now retired and a member of the Midwest Astronomers group, will lead a fun and educational evening at the Chilo Lock #34 Park on Friday, February 11, 2010. "Bring your binoculars or a telescope and beginning around 6:30 p.m., if it's a clear night, we could see several of the moons of Jupiter and the mountain range on the moon where Apollo 15 landed," he said.

Clermont Parks Chief Naturalist Keith Robinson said no reservations are required for this fun evening of stargazing. "It's a great opportunity for people of all ages to find out about planets and stars above us," said Robinson, who added there will be free hot chocolate to help all the amateur astronomers keep warm.



## Mocktails Winners and their Incredible Non-Alcoholic Brews

*The Clermont County Recorder's Office is the Judge's Choice winner of the annual Clermont Safe Communities Mocktails competition. The event, held in December, is a competition among Clermont County agencies and departments to come up with a fun and tasty non-alcoholic holiday drink--while focusing on the message of "don't drink and drive."*

*"This competition gets more creative every year," said Martha Enriquez with Clermont Safe Communities. Special thanks to her fellow judges Lt. Randy McElfresh, Judge Anthony Brock, and Rita Heikenfeld.*

### Judge's Choice - Toast of the County

Clermont County Recorder's Office

#### *Blue Christmas*

2 cups orange pineapple juice  
2 cups sweet and sour mix  
2 cups V8 Smoothie Tropical Colada  
2 cups ginger ale  
2 cups lemon lime soda  
2 cups Blue Hawaiian Punch  
2 cups Rose's Blue Raspberry  
Blue food coloring

*Mix ingredients in a large pitcher. Add food coloring as desired. Serve over ice. Play Elvis' Blue Hawaii while sipping!*



*Mona Kirker and Mary Jo Joseph with the Clermont County Recorder's Office watch Carol Yeager with the General Health District sample their Mocktail entry, Blue Christmas.*

### Peoples Choice "Best Mocktail"

Clermont County Juvenile Court

#### *Green with Envy*

4 peeled kiwi  
1/4 cup sugar  
1/2 cup lime juice  
2 cups sparkling water  
9 oz. unsweetened pineapple juice

*Place all ingredients into blender with crushed ice. Blend for one minute. Makes four servings.*

### Best Display

General Health District/Permit Central

#### *Sobering Sorbet*

1 pint mango sorbet  
1 pint raspberry sorbet  
24 oz ginger ale

*Scoop sorbet into large punch bowl. Add ginger ale and stir lightly. Let stand for five minutes. Serve and enjoy!*

*Jon Streater with the General Health District serves up Sobering Sorbet to event judge Lt. Randy McElfresh with the Ohio State Patrol*



## Best Drinking and Driving Prevention Message

Health District Nursing

### *Santa's Little Helper*

Gingersnap ice cream

Milk

Gingerbread syrup

*Two generous dips of gingersnap ice cream, blended with milk to desired thickness. Add 1/2 cup gingerbread syrup and blend until smooth. Makes 12 servings. Gingerbread syrup—1/4 teaspoon each cinnamon, ginger, and vanilla; 1 1/2 cups water, 1 cup sugar. Combine all ingredients in a pan with steep sides. Bring to a boil on medium heat. Reduce heat to low and simmer for 20 minutes. Syrup will thicken upon cooling.,*

*Lt Randy McElfresh, Judge Anthony Brock, and Martha Enriquez with Clermont Safe Communities served as Mocktail judges*



## Well-Read

Clermont County Public Library

1/2 cup white grape juice

1/2 cup pomegranate juice

1/4 cup cranberry juice

1/4 cup apple juice

2 tsp. lime juice

## Stink Bomb

Rumpke



*Mix 2 oz. each cranberry juice and soda water into an 8 oz. glass. In a small glass pour 2 oz. of pineapple juice. When ready to drink, drop the smaller glass of pineapple juice into the larger glass. Juices will mix when tilted to drink.*

## Birch Beer

Clermont County Drug Free Coalition /Mental Health and Recovery Board

*Birch beer is a carbonated non-alcoholic soft drink made from herbal extracts, usually from birch bark. It has a taste similar to root beer.*

## Peach Mango Cooler

Clermont Safe Communities

2 15 oz. cans peaches in heavy syrup

1 46 oz. bottle V8 Fusion Peach Mango

1/2 gallon Tropicana Peach Mango juice

1 1/2 cups water

1 1/2 cups sugar

1 liter ginger ale

*Puree peaches in a blender. Boil water and add sugar until dissolved. Mix all ingredients except ginger ale in large plastic container. Freeze overnight. Remove from freezer 2 hours before serving. Chop until slushy and place in punch bowl. Add ginger ale at serving time.*



EXTENSION

## *Recipe of the Month*

### **Nutrition Packed Mac**

**Serves:** 4 / Serving size: 1¼ cup / cost per serving: \$.82

#### **Ingredients :**

- 1 7¼-ounce package macaroni and cheese
- 1 16-ounce package frozen mixed vegetables
- 1 ½ cups chopped cooked beef, pork, tuna or chicken
- ¼ cup nonfat milk
- ⅛ teaspoon garlic or onion powder

#### **Preparation:**

1. Cook macaroni in large saucepan as directed on package. After 5 minutes, add the frozen vegetables and continue cooking until macaroni is tender and vegetables are cooked; drain.
2. Return vegetables and macaroni to the pan. Add meat.
3. Stir the cheese sauce mix, milk, garlic or onion powder together. Stir into macaroni mixture. (Omit the butter/margarine recommended on the package).
4. Cook over low heat for 1 to 2 minutes or until heated through, stirring occasionally.

**Tips:** For a vegetarian meal, substitute 2 cups cooked black, kidney, or garbanzo beans (15-ounce can) for the beef, pork or chicken.



***Margaret Jenkins***



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

***When it comes to New Year's resolutions and keeping them, the one word you need to think of is: MODERATION!***

This newsletter is a service of the Board of Clermont County Commissioners. For more information about the articles featured, contact Clermont County Communications Director Kathy Lehr at (513) 732-7597 or e-mail [klehr@co.clermont.oh.us](mailto:klehr@co.clermont.oh.us).