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City of Blue Ash Municipal And Safety Center

Fourth Quarter, 2006

▶ ADVANCE

Celebrating A Business Community That's Moving Forward

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The new Blue Ash headquarters of the Cincinnati Eye Institute.

Cincinnati Eye Institute Locates Headquarters in Blue Ash

The Cincinnati Eye Institute (CEI) celebrated the grand opening of its new regional eye center in Blue Ash on November 29th. CEI's move into the former Northmark III building off of Alliance Road has allowed the practice to expand patient services as well as consolidate offices that were previously located in three Montgomery locations. The three-story, 120,000 square foot building was transformed into a world-class eye care facility that will fulfill the current and future needs of CEI, the largest private ophthalmic practice in the U.S. with over 45 doctors practicing in 20 locations throughout the Greater Cincinnati area.

can offer first-class clinical areas, a surgery center, an urgent treatment center, teaching and conference facilities and other amenities that we lacked in the past," says CEI President Clyde Bell. "The consolidation of three locations into our new Blue Ash center will allow our physicians to interact more effectively which results in more timely referrals, increased efficiency and ultimately, better patient care."

Up to 400 patients are expected to be treated on a typical day at the CEI Blue Ash regional office, which houses nearly 100 patient examination rooms. Other features of the new facility include:

- ▶ Surgical center with six operating suites

"This new facility has allowed us to create a state-of-the-art eye care center, where we

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FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Blue Ash Future Looks Bright

The *Cincinnati Enquirer* captured the essence of our city's exciting new developments in the headline of its recent article, "City of Blue Ash Catching Its Wave." From Citigroup's new IT Center to overwhelming voter approval for funding of a 130-acre park and other new recreational amenities, it is indeed a remarkable time in our city's history.

As the article identified, a key element of the city's success is our close collaboration with all members of our business community. We realize the immense importance of our largest employers but much like a diverse stock portfolio, Blue Ash must invest in nurturing small and mid-sized companies as well. We believe that on-going communication with our

business community is why Blue Ash has seen its office vacancy rate drop almost three-fold in the last few years to a level that is now the region's lowest.

Fostering a superior quality of life greatly benefits our business partners by helping them recruit and retain the top talent they need to succeed. That's one of the reasons why we're excited to be moving forward with our plans for several new recreational and cultural amenities. Blue Ash will develop an expansive public park at the Blue Ash



David Waltz
Blue Ash City Manager

Airport that will include a performing arts and business conference center and other attractions. A new clubhouse at the Blue Ash Golf Course and a major expansion of the Blue Ash Recreation Center also on the horizon.

As we look ahead to 2007, we seek to build on Blue Ash's reputation as a great business destination. You are a valued member of our business community, and your input on the Blue Ash Airport park and other city initiatives are welcome.

We value your continued support and investment in our community.

David Waltz
Blue Ash City Manager

BLUE ASH CITY NEWS

Spotlight on BlueAshAdvance.com

BlueAshAdvance.com was launched this fall as a new web site devoted exclusively to promoting economic development in Blue Ash. To familiarize you with our new web site, a different section of the web site will be featured in each issue of this newsletter.

The web site's Testimonials section features quotes from several Blue Ash-based executives, including Thomas S. Urban, President & CEO of Mercy Health Partners. Here's an excerpt of his testimonial on why Mercy chose Blue Ash for its network services building that includes Mercy's IT, human resources, accounting and other key operations:

"The 400 employees who work in our Blue Ash network services building enjoy its proximity to major highways, which eases travel to and from their homes each day, as well as to our hospitals and other facilities for meetings and other needs. Our employees also enjoy the many shops, restaurants and other services that Blue Ash offers. We understand the importance of maintaining close ties with the communities in which we are located, and we value our relationship with the City of Blue Ash." **BAA**



Bob Ready, president of LSI and Michael Seeber, Oberbuergermeister of Ilmenau

Sister City Visits Blue Ash

A delegation of 17 government, education and business leaders from Ilmenau, Germany was hosted by Blue Ash October 5-15 as part of the Sister City program between the two cities.

The delegation's visit coincided with the Tall Stacks celebration and the dedication of Blue Ash's historic Hunt House. The delegation was treated to several tours and special events designed to give them a comprehensive view of Blue Ash and the surrounding region.

Ilmenau has a population of 32,000 and is located in the state of Thuringia in central Germany. While old world beauty and charm have been preserved there, modern development also characterizes the 20 square mile city. **BAA**

Blue Ash Business Community Update Congratulations to...

BestNest Named Among *Inc. 500*

Blue Ash-based internet retailer BestNest has been named among *Inc.* magazine's 2006 500 fastest-growing private companies. The honor marks the second consecutive year the family-owned retailer of bird feeders, birdbaths and other backyard and garden décor has been named on the *Inc. 500* list.

BestNest currently ranks 485th on the *Inc. 500* list, which is based on revenue growth between 2002 and 2005. Started in 1999, BestNest has enjoyed a three-year growth rate of 310.6 percent. With about 500 wholesale customers including garden centers, landscapers and

specialty shops, BestNest had \$5.9 million in revenue in 2005.

"It is an honor to be recognized for the second year as an *Inc. 500* fastest growing U.S. company," says BestNest President David Woeste. "I feel very blessed to have the opportunity to work with such a fine group of people – a dedicated team who recognizes the importance of taking care of our customers' needs. By continuing our focus on our customers, by building into each employee and by expanding our product lines to include



the best backyard wildlife and outdoor décor items available, I believe we will continue to grow and be successful." BAA

Blue Ash Firms on Top 100 List

Congratulations to Sunny Delight (9), Hills Communities (36), Miami Systems (47), Reach USA (89), and Dugan & Meyer Construction (93) for making The Deloitte Cincinnati USA 100 list of largest privately held companies in the region.

Congratulations to Abstract Displays, BestNest and Triplefin for being on the *Business Courier's* "Fast 55 list" that recognizes the region's fastest-growing companies annually. BAA

BLUE ASH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS



Lake Forest II

New Developments

With Citigroup leasing the first of three buildings in The Landings Office Park, Duke officials have begun work on the second 175,000 sq. ft. building. It will be completed in July, 2007. Other buildings to hit the Blue Ash market in 2006 are Hills' Kenwood Corporate Center (33,600 sq. ft.) just off Reed Hartman and Al Neyer's Lake Forest II (35,000 sq. ft.), the new home of Raymond James, Von Lehman and Xerox. The Shoppes at Hazelwood on Cornell are under construction with 43,000 sq. ft. of condo-office to be available by mid-2007. BAA

Expansions

Dermapath Diagnostics, a lab that provides dermatopathology diagnosis services to physicians in 25 states, is expanding their operations from 4,500 sq. ft. on Kenwood Road to over 10,000 sq. ft. on Redhill Drive. The project is expected to be completed in June, 2007. BAA

Camargo Pharmaceutical Services moved its headquarters to the Hawthorne Center on Carver Road, the former Sara Lee location. They tripled their square footage to 26,000 to accommodate their rapid growth.

Metro Seeking Input on Expanding Service in Blue Ash

Blue Ash city officials will be meeting with Metro this fall on the possibility of expanding bus service in Blue Ash. Metro is seeking input from the Blue Ash business community on where expansions should occur and how it will benefit specific businesses. Please contact Judy Clark at **(513) 745-8524** or **JClark@BlueAsh.com** if your company could benefit from increased bus service or if you'd like to be part of a meeting with Metro. BAA

Commerce Dept. Can Help You Enter International Markets

The U.S. Commercial Service (CS) helps local companies sell their products and services in international markets. Designed particularly to assist small and medium-sized businesses with entering foreign markets, the CS has 107 U.S. Export Assistance Centers domestically and more than 150 international offices. In 2003 alone, the CS helped U.S. companies facilitate over \$35 billion in exports. The CS is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

If your product or service is at least 51 percent U.S. content, the local CS office in Cincinnati is eager to help you enter international markets. Contact the CS Cincinnati Director, Marcia Brandstadt, at **513-684-2944** or **Marcia.Brandstadt@mail.doc.gov**. Also visit www.export.gov for more information on international trade resources. BAA

Sign up for an electronic version of this newsletter

You can receive an electronic version of future issues of this newsletter. Simply log onto our economic development web site, **www.BlueAshAdvance.com**, click the "Request Newsletter" icon on the Home Page, and give us your email address. It's that easy! BAA

The Professional Development Institute (PDI) at Raymond Walters College offers high quality training and consulting services for over 100 local and international organizations at PDI's state-of-the-art facility in Blue Ash or at the company's location.

PDI offers training in the areas of leadership, management, strategic

planning, customer service, generational differences, diversity, harassment, safety, team building, coaching, Lean Six Sigma and more.

With over 20 years of experience in outsourced educational services, PDI has the capacity to staff any organization's human resource development area with dedicated education professionals.

PDI's Raymond Walters campus facility has a conference room equipped with video conferencing capability that is available for a daily fee to organizations for meetings, seminars and events.

For more information on the Professional Development Institute, call **513-936-1730** or visit the web site at www.rwc.uc.edu/pdi. BAA

Cincinnati Eye Institute — Continued From Page 1

- ▶ Urgent Eye Care Center, open 8-5 Monday-Friday and on call 24/7, that corporations can utilize if an employee has an urgent problem
- ▶ Clinical facilities
- ▶ Café for patients and families
- ▶ Administrative offices
- ▶ Training and conference facilities for up to 100 people
- ▶ Offices for the newly established Cincinnati Eye Institute Foundation which supports clinical research, education and indigent care

Mr. Bell explains that, as one of the world's premier ophthalmic treatment, research and education centers, CEI's new facility will host a regular series of continuing education courses that will be attended by a diverse

range of eye care professionals. He adds that CEI's distinguished group of world renowned physicians give lectures and teach around the globe, and many of them have developed new equipment, implants and surgical techniques in the field of ophthalmology.

"During our search for a new regional office, we conducted an extensive analysis of our patient base and population growth corridors, and we concluded that Blue Ash was where we needed to be," says Bell in determining why the distinguished firm chose Blue Ash for its regional site. "Its central location makes Blue Ash the center of the universe for us. The City of Blue Ash was really great and helped us determine how patients could most easily access our building." BAA

Blue Ash City Council and City Manager:

Robert J. Buckman, Jr., Mayor

Mark F. Weber, Vice Mayor

Rick Bryan

Lee Czerwonka

Henry S. Stacey

Stephanie Stoller

James W. Sumner

David M. Waltz, City Manager

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