



*Friends meetings will be held at the Davidson Interpretive Center at 7:30 p.m. on the following dates:
Monday, July 20 • Monday, August 17 • Monday, September 21*

Summer Fun in the Parks!

Pickin' for the Parks - Saturday, July 11
11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., George Rogers Clark Park

Join us for our 2nd Annual Pickin' for the Parks, to support the Clark County Park District's programs and activities. Enjoy an entire day of music, food, drinks and fun!

Bands include Berachah Valley, McCoy Grass, Chapel Road, Lafferty Pike, and Mad River Railroad. Our headliners, Tim Shelton and Clay Hess, will play at 4:45 p.m. Presale tickets are available online at <http://pickinfortheparks.eventbrite.com>. You can also purchase tickets at Security National Bank, Champion City Guide & Supply and the Davidson Interpretive Center. Held rain or shine - please bring lawn chairs or blankets for comfortable seating. Food and beverage vendors will be on-site. No outside food or beverages permitted in the park for this event.



Presale tickets are \$12 or \$15 at the gate. Children under 12 are free. You may also purchase a family package for \$40 giving you passes for two adults and up to four children under the age of 19.

For more information, please call the Clark County Park District at 937-882-6000.

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Summer Fun... (continued from pg. 1)

Olde Fashioned 4th of July & 25th Anniversary of the Friends of the Clark County Park District:

Celebrate the Birthday of our Nation with an Olde Fashioned 4th of July picnic! Enjoy games such as sack races, tug of war, watermelon eating, and seed spitting contests. Bring the family to the DeMint shelter house at George Rogers Clark Park at 3:00 p.m. on the 4th of July. Bring your own picnic foods, beverages, and lawn chairs for a great day of family fun.



During our 4th of July celebration, we will also be celebrating the **25th Anniversary of the Friends of the Clark County Park District**. We have been working hard for the past 25 years to bring visitors into our parks and support projects within the Clark County Park District. Successful projects include the handicapped fishing docks, our Photography Contest, the Gantlet trail run, and many other activities supporting the mission of the Clark County Park District. Projects like these can benefit from everyone's talents. Many hands make light work!



News from the Clark County Park District:

by Carol Kennard, Interim Executive Director

As summer officially begins and the thermometer rises, families and friends are flocking to the Clark County Park District parks to explore their rich beauty and heritage. I am fortunate to have met many of the great park supporters in my first two months at the district. And I appreciate the warm welcome I received! We

have a lot in common – love for the parks and enjoying opportunities in the outdoors where good memories are made.

And now the Park District is expanding with the latest acquisition of a 15-acre parcel formerly known as the Clearview Mobile Home Park, located on Dayton-Springfield Road. The land was acquired through a partnership with the Clark County Land Reutilization Corporation and includes some wooded areas, rock outcroppings, and open meadow areas. We are excited about the new opportunities this opens up for park patrons and are working with many different community groups to develop a management and use plan for the future park. Since there is a history of dumping on the property, we discourage public access until the area can be properly developed.

Until then, please enjoy exploring George Rogers Clark Park, Estel Wenrick Wetlands, Leadingham Prairie Preserve and the Little Miami and Prairie Grass Bike Trails. And mark your calendars for Pickin' for the Parks our annual Bluegrass Jamboree on July 11. We'll enjoy great bluegrass music and food, surrounded by our friends, while supporting the programs and facilities of the Clark County Park District.

If you have an idea or thoughts about the Clark County Park District, please contact me at 937-882-6000, ckennard@clarkcountyparkdistrict.org, or stop in at the Davidson Interpretive Center. I'd love to meet you!

You can learn more about the Clark County Park District by visiting their website: clarkcountyparkdistrict.org.

Carol Kennard, our Interim Executive Director, can be reached at 937-882-6000 or by email at:

ckennard@clarkcountyparkdistrict.org . You may also visit the park headquarters at the Davidson Interpretive Center located on Lower Valley Pike near George Rogers Clark Park.



Daniel Hertzler House

The 6th annual Hertzler House Living History Day Camp has been completed!

Local 4th and 5th graders came to experience a day in the life of a youth in 1854. Three sessions were held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

The first day was hot and humid, yet campers played ‘olde tyme’ baseball coached by “Catfish” from a local vintage baseball team. Campers worked with volunteer staff to prepare and cook their beef stew lunch over the fire on the open hearth. Lunch included cornbread, applesauce, and butter they churned, all prepared by participants. Crafts included making a personal sampler, touring the restored house, and ended the day by making homemade ice cream. Ten more campers enjoyed better weather on Wednesday, and Friday’s group had a good time as well. In their free time, campers enjoyed playing with toys of the time like the Game of Grace, ring toss, pick up sticks, and making their own whizzer toys. Every girl receives a bonnet to keep her head covered and boys are given straw hats and neckerchiefs just like the boys wore in 1854.

The volunteers who make this event happen have worked hard and look forward to another season in 2016. Mark your calendars for the third week of June and register your son, daughter, or grandchild for the Hertzler House 1854 Day Camp.

Century of Clark County Homes: This August will be the second annual Century of Clark County Homes on Saturday, August 15th. This all day bus tour will visit 5 historic homes including the Crabill House, Pennsylvania House, Hertzler House, Gammon House, and finishing up at the Westcott House. Tickets are \$55.00 per person with a limit of 40 participants. For more information, contact Kristina Kitchen at 937-245-1424 or a kristim1998@yahoo.com.



*[top] Churning butter.
Everyone gets a turn!*

*[middle] Ready for lunch
A table set with real dishes,
linen napkins & silverware*

*[bottom] Taking turns
making cornbread*

Hertzler House is open Sunday afternoons during the summer for unscheduled tours. The house tour fee is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children. Special tours may be arranged at any time by contacting the Clark County Park District. The Hertzler House will be open for extended hours on both Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day weekend during the Fair at New Boston.



George Rogers Clark Heritage Association

Mark your calendars now for this year's **Fair at New Boston** being held at George Rogers Clark Park on September 5th and 6th. Enjoy historic food, shop at our merchants, and meet various characters that roam the streets of New Boston in the country's most authentic 18th-century market fair. See the works of world renowned historic artisans, many of whom have been listed in the *Early American Life Magazine's Directory of Historic Artisans*.

Enjoy an 18th-century play at the Cheapside Theater. See Doctor Balthasar and learn about his miracle medicines. Witness the ascent of a lighter than air balloon and see the magical images of the Grand Camera Obscura. Beware of the press gang that is looking for able-bodied men and boys to serve on the high seas, whether they agree or not. Witness feats of magic and prestidigitation as Fairwynds will amaze you.

Presale tickets are \$8 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6 through 11. They are available at the offices of the Clark County Park District as well as most branches of the Security National Bank. Tickets at the gate are \$10 for adults, \$7 for active-duty military personnel, and \$3 for children age 6 to 11. As always, those 5 and under are free. Gates open at 10:00 a.m. and the Fair at New Boston is open to all visitors until 6:00 p.m.

For information about the George Rogers Clark Heritage Association, visit www.grcha.org or www.fairatnewboston.org. To follow Fair at New Boston news and updates, visit our facebook page.



First Mad River Light Artillery

The First Mad River Light Artillery will be traveling around the region throughout much of the summer. To see them as well as historic pieces of artillery, visit the "Gathering at the Garst" in Greenville, Ohio on Saturday, July 25 and Sunday, July 26. Demonstrations of the workings of the historic 6 pound cannon will be presented, in addition to information regarding its capabilities and role in promoting the settlement of our area.

For more information about the First Mad River Light Artillery and to discuss arranging a cannon shot for your event or activity, please contact the Clark County Park District offices.



Estel Wenrick Wetlands & Leadingham Prairie Preserve

The Estel Wenrick Wetlands and adjacent Leadingham Prairie Preserve represent a rare and fragile ecosystem that includes many endangered animals and plants. Each season provides a different view as the cycle of nature winds its way from spring through summer and leading into fall.

Check out the progress of our wetland and prairie restoration in the large fields just south of the main wetlands.

Nature Series: Butterfly Hike, Friday, July 17, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Over 40 species of butterflies have been identified at Leadingham Prairie. Wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and old shoes. Be sure to bring water and bug repellent.



Nature Series: Micro Dragon Hunt, Friday, August 14, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Search for “dragons” in the Leadingham Prairie! Be sure to wear a hat and bring sunscreen, water, and bug repellent.

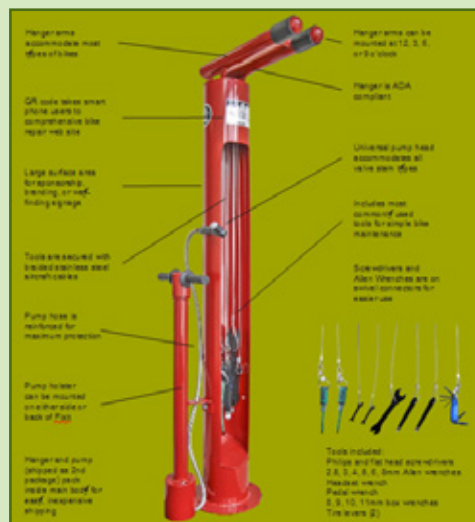
For information about the Estel Wenrick Wetlands, contact the Clark County Park District Offices at 937-882-6000.



Little Miami & Prairie Grass Trails

The Friends of the Clark County Park District are working hard to make our bike trails a better place to ride! We look forward to the installation of a “Fixit” bicycle repair and service station at the Beatty Station area which will allow you to secure your bicycle for maintenance. This repair station will provide basic tools and other valuable assistance for “field repairs” of your bicycle.

This spring, students at the Springfield-Clark Career Technology Center refurbished and installed a replica small train (see picture above) at Beatty Station on the Little Miami Trail. Children are enjoying playing on it and often pose for pictures.



Components of our “Fixit” Bicycle Repair Station are pictured above.



Olde Fashioned 4th of July, 2013. Celebrate our 25th Anniversary of the Friends of the Clark County Park District, Saturday, July 4th at 3:00 p.m., at George Rogers Clark Park.

George Rogers Clark Park

George Rogers Clark Park is open 365 days each year offering hiking trails, fishing, picnicking, and a wide variety of nature-based family activities. The trails are used by hikers, joggers, cross-country teams, and are a welcome retreat from the hustle and bustle of city life! Upcoming programs include:

Olde Fashioned 4th of July & 25th Anniversary of the Friends of the Clark County Park District: Saturday, July 4th, 3:00 p.m., Parking lot below the dam. Celebrate with old-fashioned family activities including three-legged races, sack races, tug-o-war, and more. This event is free for all ages.

Night Fishing at Hosterman Lake: Free for all ages

- Friday, July 24, 9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. (pre-register by 7/22/15)
- Friday, August 21, 9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. (pre-register by 8/22/15)

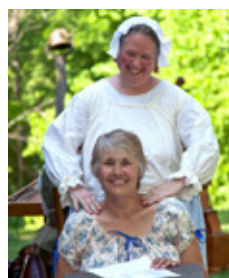


Join the Ranger Patrol Division for a fun, family night of fishing! Bring your own fishing pole, bait, tackle, bug repellent and lantern or flashlight. Pack some snacks and have a night picnic. To register call the park office at 882-6000. No alcoholic beverages are allowed. Please place all trash in trash cans before you leave for the night.

Davidson Interpretive Center: Campfire Chats & Stargazes

- ***Campfire Chat: Beekeeping, Tuesday, July 14, 7:00 p.m.*** Matt Kohl, a local beekeeper, will offer a presentation on the natural history of honeybees. Learn more about beekeeping and why bees are so important to our environment. Pre-register by calling 882-6000.
- ***Campfire Chat: Hunters of the Sky - Tuesday, August 11, 7:00 p.m.*** The Glen Helen Raptor Center will inform us of the natural history, conservation and rehabilitation of several fascinating raptor species. Please pre-register by Friday, June 5, by calling 882-6000.
- ***Stargaze: Campfire Night! July 9-19 (clearest night), 10:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.***
- ***Stargaze: Perseid Meteor Shower, August 12, 10:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.***





Ways You Can Help...

The Clark County Park District can only meet the needs of its community with the assistance of many volunteers. We encourage you to use our parks and enjoy the value that reflects the hundreds of hours of volunteer work to make for such a wonderful experience. Next, we ask you to think about how you can contribute to the wonderful parks in our community so the next visitor has a chance to have an experience as good as yours.



Everybody has something to offer. With events constantly filling our calendar we can always use help with some event, program, or other activity where your talents will be a wonderful addition to these experiences.

If there are ways you can help with financial contributions, they are always welcome. We specifically look for those willing to sponsor and contribute to specific projects that are important to them to expand our current offerings of activities. For more information about specific projects that we would like to see developed within the Clark County Park District, feel free to call us a 937-882-6000 to see how you can help. Contributions from as little as \$10 to, (well, actually, the sky is the limit), will help our Park District continue to grow and meet the needs of our community.



"Like" us on facebook for news, pictures, and updates about activities in our parks!



4th Annual Friends of the Clark County Park District Photography Contest

The 2015 photography contest is well underway!

Brochures with entry forms are available at the Clark County Park District office and on our website at www.fccpd.org. Photographs taken within the properties of the Clark County Park District within the last three years are eligible for entry.

Five categories are available including History, Wildlife, Landscape, People, and Open. Your \$20 entry fee allows you to submit up to five photographs.

A reception gala will be held at the Davidson Interpretive Center on November 15 at 2:00 p.m. All entries will be displayed and votes taken for the People's choice award. Awards will be presented at 3:15 p.m. with a first-place guaranteed in each category, as well as second, third, and honorable mention. For rules, entry forms, and other information please visit www.fccpd.org and look for "photo contest."



CALENDAR *Of* EVENTS

Monthly Meetings:

The Friends of the Clark County Park District

3rd Monday of each month
7:30 PM, Carlton Davidson Interpretive Center.

Clark Co. Board of Park Commissioners

2nd Monday of each month
7:00 p.m., Carlton Davidson Interpretive Center.

The George Rogers Clark Heritage Assoc.

1st Wednesday of each month
7:00 PM, The Gathering House located in GRC Park

The Hertzler House Committee

4th Thursday of each month 7:00 PM, The Hertzler House

Special Events:

- **July 4, 3:00 p.m.**, Olde Fashioned 4th & the 25th Anniversary of the FCCPD Celebration, George Rogers Clark Park
- **July 9-19, 10:30 p.m.**, Stargaze held on clearest night, Davidson Interpretive Center
- **July 11, 11:00 a.m. gates open**, Pickin' for the Parks All-Day Bluegrass Jamboree, George Rogers Clark Park
- **July 14, 7:00 p.m.**, Campfire Chat: Beekeeping, Davidson Interpretive Center
- **July 17, 11:00 a.m.**, Butterfly Hike, Leadingham Prairie Preserve
- **July 24, 9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.**, Night Fishing, George Rogers Clark Park
- **August 11, 7:00 p.m.**, Campfire Chat: Hunters of the Sky, Davidson Interpretive Center
- **August 12, 10:30 p.m.**, Stargaze: Perseid Meteor Shower, Davidson Interpretive Center
- **August 14, 11:00 a.m.**, Micro Dragon Hunt, Leadingham Prairie Preserve
- **August 15**, A Century of Clark County Homes, George Rogers Clark Park, Hertzler House Committee
- **August 21, 9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.**, Night Fishing, George Rogers Clark Park
- **September 5&6**, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., The Fair at New Boston, George Rogers Clark Park



To subscribe to this electronic newsletter please send an e-mail to: newsletter@clarkcountyparkdistrict.org.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to everyone you know who is interested in the Clark County Park District and shares your vision that this is a valuable resource in our community that demands our support.

Layout & design of The Park Bench provided by Julie Nau, Nau Graphics, www.naugraphics.com