

offset the cost of mammograms for those in need. These events not only united the staff but also the community, and plans are in place to continue these efforts for many years to come.

## Summit Metro Parks

Lisa King was named executive director of Summit Metro Parks in September 2015. King, a state-registered landscape architect and graduate of The Ohio State University, was most recently the district's chief of planning. She has also been its landscape architect.

Summit Metro Parks will celebrate its 95th anniversary this year. The park district was established December 31, 1921.

In 2016, Summit Metro Parks will open its first mountain bike trail (Hampton Hills Metro Park, Akron) and a collegiate-level cross country course (Silver Creek Metro Park, Norton). The district will also launch a brand-new website.

## City of Westlake

The city of Westlake's Recreation Department has been working to plan year-round, family-oriented activities — programs or events the entire family can participate in. Most of these events occur or are themed around holidays or the seasons. Here are some of those activities.

Spring Family Fun Night is an event held close to St. Patrick's Day. This event features Irish dancers, balloon twisters and face painters, and allows children to run around the city's recreation center gymnasium. A giant, 18-foot, inflatable slide and bounce house add to the fun.

The Fall Festival/Pumpkin Hunt is over 15 years old and has grown wonderfully over those years. Children get to wander through the pumpkin patch and take home their very own pumpkin. Children get to have their faces painted while watching stilt walkers, jugglers, superheroes and even a princess or two. Families have the opportunity to experience pony and hay wagon rides while listening to music.

The Trick or Treat Trail event allows families to dress up and walk at night along the decorated and not-too-spooky Trick or Treat Trail. The trail features both live acted and decorated scenes, including Dracula's castle, Frankenstein's laboratory and a variety of scarecrows.



Holiday Family Fun Night features holiday carolers, holiday videos set in a movie theater setting, a DJ playing participants' favorite Christmas and holiday tunes and a craft room. The special part of the night is Santa Claus sitting in front of the fireplace reading "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

## Youngstown Park and Recreation Department

The city of Youngstown Park and Recreation Department partnered with Black Knights Police Association and Buckeye Health Plan to offer the community Safe Halloween Night. For Christmas, the department partnered with Youngstown Association of Black Professional Firefighters and Buckeye

Health Plan to offer the community Lunch with Santa. We provided the venue, security personnel and a staff member to assist as needed. Buckeye Health Plan provided a monetary donation and drawstring bags with its logo. Black Knights Police Association and Youngstown Association of Black Professional Firefighters hosted their respective events, decorated the venue and made sure that all attendees had an enjoyable and memorable experience. Both events were well-attended, and we look forward to having them in years to come. The park director strongly feels that establishing partnerships with trustworthy groups is the key to providing programs and events as we deal with budget constraints. We hope to establish a new partnership that will enable us to offer the community an event for Easter. Buckeye Health Plan has come forward and pledged to be a long-term partner within our community, and we could not be more grateful for its efforts. In addition to helping with the aforementioned events, Buckeye Health Plan also helped provide field trips for our summer day camp children and made the summer outdoor movie series a huge success. Thumbs-up for great people coming together to do great things!

## Region 3 Blue Ash Parks & Recreation Department

With the combination of upcoming retirements and the increased growth of the Blue Ash Parks & Recreation Department, we have been approved to move forward with our succession plan, which will occur over the next two years. The succession plan includes several new and redefined positions that include a deputy director (Kathy Swensen), an administrative assistant (Susan Trammel), a parks and golf maintenance superintendent (Brian Kruse), a golf and recreation operations superintendent (Tiphonie Howard), and an assistant recreation superintendent (Dan Guthrie). Several other positions have been redefined, and plans have been made to incorporate additional full-time and part-time permanent positions in the near future to keep up with our ever-improving facilities and expanding programming areas.