



City of Bluff City
Mayor Percy J. Brown

Office of the Mayor

City Hall – 100 Broad Avenue
Bluff City, Ohio

June 30, 2007

Dear Bluff City Citizens:

July Fourth is rapidly approaching! And you know what that means – Bluff City's Red, White, & Bang, our glorious fireworks celebration! Hopefully nothing will burn down this year.

As the jewel of Bluff City's summer festival crown, 2007's Red, White, & Bang should be the best one ever! This year fireworks contractor, Snigbloggen's Explosive Entertainment, is giving us a deep discount! They're going to give us a ninety minute show for the price of the usual twenty minute show, so bring your lawn chairs and refreshments (no alcohol, please).

Rest assured, this year's fireworks display will be carefully managed along the Bluff City riverfront and at least 3000 feet away from the Chapatalulah Tribal Casino (per the tribal elders request). We have worked closely with the Bluff City fire department to insure we don't have a repeat of the 2005 incident, the one exaggaratingly labeled "The Metro Park Inferno" by the Bluff City Squealer.

I'm sure many of you still vividly recall that tragic event, wherein the ground effect fireworks launcher accidentally tipped over, igniting the native prairie grass bottomland of Bluff City's Urban Riverside Metro Park. The resulting fireworks display was stupendous and we were fortunate only 32 acres were scorched (along with the 16-acre homeless squatter's camp within the park). But those 32 acres are now the new Bluff City landfill and no lives (or property) were lost, so all is well!

We had quite a scare here at Bluff City city hall last Monday. It seems Janet Brinley, our administrative assistant, discovered a box of broken thermometers in a hallway, which prompted a Hazardous Materials response by both the Bluff City Fire Department and the Bluff County Emergency Management Agency. The entire facility was evacuated, since mercury is considered toxic, and we had to follow strict Haz-Mat protocols for decontamination. That meant all persons inside Bluff City city hall had to completely disrobe so our clothes could be decontaminated. Needless to say, it made for an awkward afternoon as we all stood around in the hot summer sun in plastic ponchos supplied by the EMA. There was a lot of sweating and not much small talk.

Four hours later our clothes were returned, smelling faintly of vinegar and rotten eggs. Bluff County EMA kept Bluff City city hall closed for another two days so the facility could be thoroughly sanitized. On Wednesday, the Bluff City fire inspector took a closer look at the box of broken thermometers in question and determined that they were actually *digital* thermometers, which evidently don't contain mercury. Needless to say, Bluff City city hall has never been cleaner, though it still smells strongly of vinegar and rotten eggs.

We'll see you at Red, White, & Bang! Please bring your best behavior (and no firearms)!

Sincerely,
Percy J. Brown
Your Honorable Mayor