



City of Bluff City  
Mayor Percy J. Brown

## Office of the Mayor

City Hall / 100 Broad Avenue  
Bluff City, Ohio

March 31, 2007

Dear Bluff City Citizens:

It's almost here! As you know, April 1<sup>st</sup> marks the one hundred and sixtieth "original" anniversary of our great city's founding! On these windswept bluffs, back in 1847, our earliest citizens finally gave up and stopped struggling through the twelve-foot high snow drifts that buried the vast Midwestern prairies during the winter of 1847. With great regret, they abandoned their dreams of finding gold in California. Being industrious and punctual people, they were trying to beat the gold rush of 1849. Sadly, they never realized their dreams. They were punctual, but not terribly persistent.

Cold and hungry, our first citizens made a brave and daring move: they trekked across five frigid miles of arctic tundra to the nearby Chapatalulah (which means "beaver at leaping water") Indian village. Our intrepid ancestors soon made friends with those kind hearted Indians, who gave our first citizens food and shelter. Over the winter, the Chapatalulah also showed our ancestors how to trap beaver for food and clothing. And from that basic measure of self sufficiency our great city was born, founded on beaver!

But I feel a great pain when I tell the Chapatalulah story. In 1847, there was a brotherhood between us and the Chapatalulah. We helped each other survive. Now, it's all about money. And despite what the press said, I still believe we could have negotiated a win-win settlement with the Chapatalulah tribe. It was unfortunate that they sought legal action in the dispute over their alleged tribal lands, but we refused to believe that they had any legal right to all the land that is now in Bluff County. That is why we fought: it was my duty to fight for Bluff City's destiny through Home Rule Law!

However, as you know, we lost that fight. Evidently, the Supreme Court believed the Chapatalulah did, in fact, once "own" all the land within and surrounding Bluff City, including everything that is in Bluff County (or everything from "the leaping water to the snoring hill," as the original Chapatalulah tribal tales describe). So, according to the Supreme Court, we are technically "squatting" (I hate to use the word "trespassing") on Chapatalulah tribal land. And they are making us pay dearly for that incursion.

The 1998 legal settlement requires Bluff City to renew its city charter every year with the blessing of the Chapatalulah tribe. There were some sticky years, with disagreements between your local government and the Chapatalulah tribe, but we always found something the tribe wanted and the charter always got renewed. This year is no different, though the price has gone up. This year the Chapatalulah want the property of Bluff City Riverfront Park so they can build a tribal riverboat casino and waterpark complex. Unfortunately, we will have to agree if we wish to remain a legal corporate entity.

But rest assured we did not lose the park completely! One stipulation of our agreement requires the Chapatalulah to maintain a thirty-foot-square green space for the "enjoyment of all Bluff City citizens!" They kindly agreed. They're even going to cut the grass for us and put in park benches!

Happy Eighth/One Hundred and Sixtieth Bluff City Anniversary! Free parking meters on April 1<sup>st</sup>!

Sincerely,  
**Percy J. Brown**  
Your Honorable Mayor