



City of Bluff City  
Mayor Percy J. Brown

## Office of the Mayor

City Hall / 100 Broad Avenue  
Bluff City, Ohio

May 30, 2008

Dear Bluff City Citizens:

Well, folks, the national foreclosure fiasco has finally hit Bluff City.

The real estate market in the Bluff County region has softened to the point that realtors tell me it's like a big, fluffy down mattress and we should all just lie down and take a nap until this mess blows over! At least, those of us who haven't yet been evicted due to foreclosure should take a nap!

Those who *have* been evicted will have to curl up on one of the old Army cots at the Bluff City Homeless Shelter, which is seeing a record numbers of new "guests" this year. Paul Fullhouse, director of the shelter, tells me that one upside to this influx of new "residents" is that the shelter now has a better image among Bluff City citizens. The shelter's not just for bums, hoboes, and junkies these days!

The downside to all this is that the new, clean residents have displaced all the bums, hoboes, and junkies who normally live at the shelter. There's now a new homeless camp under the freeway exit ramp overpass, so be cautious when driving there, as the smoke from the camp fires can reduce visibility.

Another unforeseen problem from this mortgage mess lies in the number of abandoned pools cropping up in Bluff City. The Bluff City Health Commissioner, Dr. Salista Goodhart, has informed me that abandoned pools will be this summer's scourge. According to Dr. Goodhart, city health inspectors are receiving a growing number of complaints regarding "green pools" behind vacant or abandoned houses. Evidently the former homeowners, being insensitive and thoughtless, forgot to drain their pools prior to their eviction. The result is hundreds of mosquito breeding grounds citywide! How inconsiderate!!

So now we have all these potential mosquito kingdoms, placing the very health of our fair city at risk! And our Health Department simply does not have enough vector-control inspectors to respond to all the complaints! Dr. Goodhart advises us to think of it this way – we're all just a warm week away from a citywide malaria, yellow fever, or West Nile virus pandemic! Trust me, people, I've suffered through West Nile virus and it's not pleasant! The shots alone were tortuous! I'm fortunate to be alive!!

So I'm calling on you, our responsible Bluff City citizens who still legally own their own homes, to help us overcome these deadly obstacles. If you happen to reside next to one of these abandoned pools, I ask you to slip into that overgrown yard and dump a few gallons of chlorine into the water. Or maybe drop in those goldfish you've been thinking about flushing down the drain, so they can eat the mosquito larvae!

And if your mortgage is precariously close to foreclosure, just remember – please be considerate and drain that pool *before* the Bluff County Sheriff posts your eviction notice. It's the right thing to do and your neighbors, at least the ones who still own their homes, will thank you for it!

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