

## FEATURE STORIES

# A day of picnics

By Janet Lang

Blue Springs WellLink

Got spring fever?

How does a picnic sound?

Well, this Sunday, you'll have the chance to attend one of 12 picnics taking place simultaneously throughout Blue Springs, a project to build community-wide safety and connection sponsored by Developing Community (an Out of the Blue, Into the Future task force) and Blue Springs Parks and Recreation.

The groups plan to sponsor these picnics, called Four Seasons in the Park, every three months a wonderful way to develop a sense of community spirit, no matter where you live in Eastern Jackson County! The theme of this first picnic is, "Fly a Kite," and it will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. March 23.

The picnics will take place at Pink Hill Park, Lucy Franklin Elementary, Baumgardner Park, Woods Chapel Park, Burrus Old Mill Park, Blue Springs Park, Rotary Park, James Walker Elementary, Ward Park, Franklin Smith Elementary, Wilbur Young Park and Keystone Park.

Local grocery stores have generously agreed to contribute picnic food, and you'll find musical entertainment and activities for kids (of all ages!) at each park. Representatives from Blue Springs WellLink's Dental for Kids initiative are the welcoming hosts and will be handing out free toothpaste. WellLink, a fund of the Greater Blue Springs Community Foundation, hopes many picnickers will donate a few dollars or spare change to the program, as we gear up to provide dental services to children in need.

**Brad Korn, a Realtor with Keller-Williams Realty** in Blue Springs, is a member of the Developing Community group and one of the forces behind the quarterly picnics. "Our goal is to help neighborhoods become more cohesive, and we hope neighbors will party in the park together at these picnics. As a result, the entire city will have a stronger sense of community. We are excited about this first picnic and hope to have a great turnout for the free food, entertainment and activities."

Please visit one of these parks Sunday afternoon and show your support for community and for WellLink. Hope to see you there!