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ALL AROUND TOWN...

James Bradley part of MWC lecture series

The Town Hall Lecture Series sponsored by the Montgomery Woman's

Club will continue on November 29 & 30 with James Bradley as the featured speaker.

Mr. Bradley is the

author of *Flags of Our Fathers*, and the son of one of the men who raised the American flag on Iwo Jima.

Wednesday and Thursday morning lectures are presented at 11 a.m. at the theater inside Paramount's Kings Island. The Wednesday lecture takes place at 8 p.m. in the auditorium at Sycamore Junior High School. For ticket information, call 513/684-1632.

bakeshop will provide a wide assortment of items for sale during the event.

All of the proceeds benefit the Montgomery Woman's Club community projects. For more information, or to donate tax deductible items, call 793-0511.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

NOVEMBER • NOVEMBER • NOVEMBER

1	Council Business Session	City Hall	7 pm
3	Sycamore Schools Closed for K - 6th grades		
4	MWC Finery & Fleas	Sycamore H.S.	9 am - 1 pm
6	Beautification Comm.	City Hall	9 am
6	Arts Commission	City Hall	5 pm
6	Planning Commission	City Hall	7:30 pm
7	Election Day		
8	Landmarks Commission	City Hall	7 pm
9	Parks & Recreation Commission	City Hall	6:30 pm
11	Veteran's Day		
11	Holiday Decorating Workshop	Swaim Lodge	9:30 am
13	Holiday Coloring Contest Begins		
13	Downtown Holiday Decorating	Univ. Church	9:30 am
14	Downtown Holiday Decorating rain date	Univ. Church	9:30 am
15	Council Work Session	City Hall	7 pm
18	Cardboard Recycling 7315 Cornell Road	10 am - 1 pm	
20	Planning Commission	City Hall	7:30 pm
21	Sister Cities Commission	City Hall	7 pm
23	Thanksgiving	City Offices Closed, trash pick up as usual	
24	City Offices Closed, trash pick up as usual		
27	Environmental Committee	City Hall	7:00 pm
27	Kids' Holiday Coloring Contest Ends	City Hall	4:00 pm
28	Board of Zoning Appeals	City Hall	7:30 pm

MWC Finery and Fleas set for November 4

The Montgomery Woman's Club has planned its annual Finery and Fleas for Saturday, November 4, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sycamore High School, 7400 Cornell Road.

In its 15th year, Finery and Fleas offers antiques, various collectibles, pictures, furniture, toys, jewelry, small appliances, electronics, tools, housewares, books and magazines. In addition, the MWC

Work underway at Safety Center

Residents visiting the Safety Center during the next few months will notice interior construction. Crews are finishing the second floor, which was not completed during the original construction.

The first floor clerical area will also be modified to provide more convenient access to the Fire Department and Mayor's Court Clerk. Public access to the Safety Center will not be changed.



Montgomery's Mission:
Taking responsibility together
to provide superior services.

www.MontgomeryOhio.org

Montgomery Bulletin

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE CITY OF MONTGOMERY

November 2006

Unlimited Yardwaste pick-up begins Nov. 6

From November 6 through December 8, residents may dispose of an unlimited amount of yard waste, including leaves. Curbside pick-up will occur on the normal trash day. Yard waste stickers will not be required.

Do not put yard waste in plastic bags. Residents must place materials loose in cans or in paper yard waste bags; branches must be bundled; leaves must be placed in cans or paper yard waste bags.

After December 8, yard waste collection will end completely until March 2007. The exception is that holiday greenery will be picked up on Saturdays, December 30, January 6 and January 13. Stickers will not be required for pick-up of Christmas trees, wreaths or swags on these days.

**Unlimited yard
waste pickup,
November 6 -
December 8!**

Montgomery puts focus on customer service

Imagine a government entity that treats visitors and callers with the same level of courteous service and respect that a company treats a valued customer. That's the way



Montgomery sees residents, each of whom plays an important part in the funding and operations of the city.

To further support such a philosophy, a new Customer Service Department has been established with a helpful service counter at City Hall. The department is a combination of functions from the Building Department, Front Desk and IT Department. The new department is comprised of Pat

Stroz, Casey Sparks, and Department Head Matthew Vanderhorst.

The new Customer Service Department will assist residents in such areas as renting a lodge, processing building permits, or assisting in navigating around the city's website, just to name a

few! Recognizing the importance of accessibility and convenience, the Customer Service Department operates with extended hours each weekday, opening at 7:30 a.m. and staying open until 5 p.m.

Stop in and experience a whole new level of customer service.

New state law now requires positive ID for in-person voting

The Ohio Legislature recently passed Amended Substitute House Bill 3, which requires all voters in the State of Ohio to verify identity before voting a regular ballot. The ID law generally requires that a voter present a photo ID or other document with the voter's name and current voting address. Acceptable forms of identification for voting include a current

and valid photo identification, military identification, a copy of a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document showing the voter's name and current address. A photo ID must be issued by the United States government or the State of Ohio and must show the following:

- The name, current address and photo of the person to whom the ID was issued.
- An expiration date that has not passed. Exception: A driver's license or state ID may show a current or former address.

Note that a notice mailed to a voter by Board of Elections mailed cannot be used as proof of identification. Voters who do not have, or fail to provide the required proof of identity, may still cast a provisional ballot in the General Election on November 7.

For a complete explanation of provisional voting, visit the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.oh.us.

Getting ready for winter's worst

With winter just around the corner, the Service Department has begun preparations for snow and ice removal. Equipment is being inspected, tested and repaired as needed and drivers will be combining "classroom exercises" with inspections of roadways to familiarize themselves with route conditions before the roads are once again covered with snow and they are called into action.



While efficient and effective snow removal can be accomplished through planning and training, it is also important for residents to realize that they also have the ability to help the crews by doing a few simple things during winter storms. These tips are part of a brochure available on the City's website in the "resident" section under "snow control." For additional information, contact City of Montgomery Public Works Director Bob Nikula at 792-8311.

City Officials

Mayor
Gerri Harbison

Vice Mayor
Ken Suer

Council Members
Mark Combs
Barry Joffe
William Niehaus
Lynda Roesch
Todd Steinbrink

Clerk of Council
Susan Hamm

City Manager
Cheryl A. Hilvert



Hats Off...

to community members that participated in the "Adopt-a-Bed" program sponsored by the Beautification & Tree Commission. This team of adult volunteers accepted the responsibility to weed a park flowerbed during the summer and fall. Their efforts helped to ensure the attractive appearance of the flowerbeds that were enjoyed by our residents and visitors to our community throughout the season. A grateful "Thank You!" is extended to the following helping hands:

Suzan Capozzoli,
Carol Darwiche,
Ralphine Gentzler,
Jason Glorius,
Melissa Goldstein,
Lisa Good,
Helen Grimes
and
Ann Hagerstrand

COUNCIL CORNER

Montgomery City Council will meet in regular monthly business session on November 1 at City Hall. Meetings begin at 7 p.m., with public comment welcomed on each item before Council.

Items on the agenda for consideration include:

PENDING LEGISLATION

- An ordinance establishing a procedure for the receipt and disposition of personal property (*Third reading, Mr. Suer*)
- An ordinance for the allocation of earnings tax revenues and amending Section 44.14 of the Montgomery Code of Ordinances (*Second reading, Mr. Combs*)
- An ordinance establishing a Vintage Club Capital Construction Fund (*Second reading, Mr. Niehaus*)
- An ordinance creating the Vintage Club Tax Increment Financing Fund (*Second reading Mr. Steinbrink*)
- An Ordinance Establishing a Special Revenue Fund for the Maintenance and Operation of the Municipal Swimming Pool (*Second reading, Ms. Roesch*)
- An ordinance to make appropriations for

current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Montgomery, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2007 (*Second Reading, Mr. Combs*)

NEW LEGISLATION

- A resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and

certifying them to the County Auditor

- A resolution accepting a bid and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Morton International, Inc., Morton Salt Division, for the purchase of de-icing rock salt

- A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Bobcat Company for the

purchase of skid steer loader and attachments

- A resolution authorizing internet auction of surplus personal property and authorizing a contract with Propertyroom.Com, Inc.

- An ordinance granting a storm sewer easement within Weller Park to Vintage Club Associates, LTD

Recent Council Actions

OCTOBER 4 BUSINESS SESSION

- An ordinance adopting the Residential Code of Ohio for one-, two-, and three-family dwellings, as supplemented (*Passed, 7-0*)
- An ordinance accepting publicly dedicated property and certain easement rights on Main Street and Remington Road (*Passed, 7-0*)
- An ordinance creating the Montgomery Corridor/Schoolhouse Interim Development Control Overlay District (*Passed, 7-0*)

- A resolution accepting a bid and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract for the Safety Center alterations to offices (*Passed, 7-0*)

- An ordinance establishing a procedure for the receipt and disposition

of personal property (*First reading passed, 6-1*)

- An ordinance correcting Section 71.18 "Driving Under Suspension or in Violation of License Restriction" and declaring an emergency (*Passed, 7-0*)

- An ordinance updating Sections 71.01, 73.011, 73.012, 73.013 and 73.014 of the Montgomery Code of Ordinances and declaring an emergency (*First reading passed, 7-0*)

- An ordinance for the allocation of earnings tax revenues and amending Section 44.14 of the Montgomery Code of Ordinances (*First reading passed, 7-0*)

- An ordinance establishing a Vintage Club Capital Construction Fund (*First reading passed, 7-0*)

- An ordinance creating the Vintage Club Tax Increment Financing Fund (*First reading passed, 7-0*)

- An ordinance establishing a Special Revenue Fund for the maintenance and operation of the Municipal Swimming Pool (*First reading passed, 7-0*)

- An Ordinance to make appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Montgomery during the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2006 (*First reading passed, 7-0*)

OCTOBER 18 BUSINESS SESSION

- An ordinance establishing a procedure for the receipt and disposition of personal property (*Second reading passed, 6-1*)

A message from your City Council...

This new feature will appear regularly, allowing Montgomery's elected officials to communicate directly with residents.



This month's message by Council Member William Neihaus

In the October issue of the Montgomery Bulletin, Todd Steinbrink addressed how Council and its various boards and commissions deal with the many issues and ideas generated within our city. One of the more important issues considered by our commissions and City Council consistently concerns land usage-zoning. We deal with this issue not only in deciding to zone or rezone property, but in updating our Zoning Code, approving development plans, and periodically updating our Comprehensive Community Plan. The Comprehensive Community Plan is the foundation upon which the Zoning Code and ultimately administrative approval are built. We currently are in the process of reviewing that Comprehensive Community Plan to determine where we are and where we should be in the future.

When someone acquires ownership in property in Montgomery, it is *zoned* for some type of residential or commercial use. With that zoning comes certain freedoms as well as constraints on its use. These zoning rules are intended to balance the owner's rights to use the property while not intruding on the rights of adjoining property owners or the entire community.

The foundation for zoning are the goals and objectives set forth in the Comprehensive Community Plan. It is based upon that Plan that the Code of Ordinances, specifically applicable land usage, is built. Past and present City Councils have always kept the owner's

property rights in mind when making changes. That is, protecting each individual's property rights to the extent possible with the fewest constraints that are feasible and still have a viable community. This balancing act is often very difficult. If zoning strictly was an act in exercising our democratic rights, then the will of the entire community would dictate how an individual property owner can or cannot exercise his property rights. The difficulty in this situation is that if the community does not like the property owner they may constrain his rights. Instead of using this town meeting approach, we are required constitutionally to identify the community interest we are trying to advance with the zoning rule or limit that rule so as not to unreasonably constrain the individual property owner's rights.

The recent Norwood case is the best example of this balancing act. We read repeatedly that the citizens of Norwood wanted and needed the new Rookwood development. If there simply was a matter of tallying the votes, Norwood would have won and the property would have been taken. Instead, the court recognized the right of each individual property owner to hold his property without unreasonable government interference. This same rule applies in zoning cases. Central to any zoning decision is the individual property owner's rights to use his or her property as he deems best balanced against the community's interest to have the property benefit everyone.

I am reminded of something I once read in a book on this subject that has made a lasting impression upon me. It concerns a relationship between a city government, its residents and all property owners within that city. I quote:

"That the whole should protect all its parts, and that every part should pay obedience to the will of the whole; or in other words, that the community should guard the rights of each individual member, and that in return for this protection, each individual should submit to the laws of the community; without which submission of all it is impossible that protection can be extended to any." That is, respecting the rights of others will help others respect your rights.

The best thing Council can do for the City of Montgomery and its property owners is to maintain the integrity of the Charter, the Comprehensive Plan, and the resulting Code of Ordinances as formalized by the present and past administrations. Only then can Montgomery continue to exist as it is now.

When my wife Marian and I moved to Montgomery in 1964, it was a sleepy little town with many open spaces, a movie drive-in, two golf courses and far fewer subdivisions. Each time Montgomery would change we would say, "We don't need that – there goes the neighborhood." I can only say, "I am pleased today with where the neighborhood has gone – the people keep coming." We were at first opposed to change, but now I see those changes and I am pleased. We have watched Montgomery change and grow. We have seen people come and go. We have watched many of you come to the city and enjoy this fine city as my family has enjoyed this fine city. Change can be frightening, but at times we need to embrace change. With that said, please come to public meetings. It is the best way for Montgomery to grow and the best way for us to discuss change, review change, and, if necessary, embrace change.

How to reach us



City Hall
891-2424

Police Department
(non-emergency)
985-1600

Fire Department
(non-emergency)
985-1633

Service Department
792-8355

**Planning/Zoning/
Building**
792-8309

**Code Enforcement
Action Line**
792-8356

Triangle progressing

The redevelopment of the Triangle Property at Cooper and Montgomery continues to progress. The project by Montgomery Gateway Partners, Ltd. consists of a two level underground parking garage, a multi tenant two story building on the north part of the site, a second two story building on the southern end, plus a public green-space at the point, and streetscaping around the entire site. The exterior of the main building will be finished by the end of the year. Peoples Community Bank will occupy the second building, scheduled to open in January. Talks are underway for several leases for the main building, including restaurants, offices and retail tenants.

Did you know?

Montgomery is a city rich in history, you can easily see that as you walk through our downtown and many other areas. Many of you know much of the history of Montgomery, but for those of you that are not as familiar, we will be offering historical facts about Montgomery each month in the newsletter.

For our first month we will address how our city was named "Montgomery". Many of you know that Montgomery was named after the town of Montgomery, New York, where the original settlers came from; but did you know that Montgomery, New York was named in honor of Richard Montgomery, Brigadier General of the Continental Army during the American Revolution? General Montgomery led the army that invaded Canada in 1775 and was killed at the Battle of Quebec.

Keep your eye out for more exciting historical facts in the December newsletter!

Artist in the Park series begins Nov. 12

Don't miss the debut of this quarterly event sponsored by the Arts Commission that will feature Lifestyle Jewelry by Ute Kramer, Calligraphy by Karen McMannon and music provided by Hills of Kentucky Dulcimers. The event, free and open to the public, is scheduled for Sunday, November 12, from 2-4 pm in Terwilliger Lodge-Dulle Park (10530 Deerfield Rd.). Light refreshments will be provided.



The afternoon will afford guests the opportunity to learn more about the featured artists and their artwork. In addition, custom designed items will be available for sale. You won't want to miss this educational and entertaining event.

Karen McMannon has been a calligraphic artist for more than 45 years. For the past 15 years, her studio has been located in the historic Conklin House (9467 Montgomery Rd.). Among her works is the acclaimed *Queen City Quotes*, a study not only in the visual use of styles, techniques and tools, but also the historical research of Cincinnati itself. In 1980 Karen founded the *Greater Cincinnati Calligraphers' Guild* and in 1987 she authored the series, '*Calligraphy Techniques' Workbooks*. According to Karen she is honored to be one of the first "Artists in the Park" and she looks forward to meeting members of our community.

Ute Kremer began her creative career by making custom jewelry for bridal and art shows. In the summer of 2005, she opened her shop *Ute's Unique*

Lifestyle Jewelry in the historic Snyder House located at 7789 Cooper Rd. Since then, *Ute's* has become the "go-to" place in Montgomery for lifestyle and bridal jewelry, girlfriend gifts, handbags and accessories. Customers are known to say, "If you like the jewelry, you'll love the store!"

The *Hills of Kentucky Dulcimers* primarily features the mountain dulcimer (a.k.a. Appalachian dulcimer, lap dulcimer, hog fiddle and duck slammer). Their library of music is extensive and includes old time, gospel, folk and pop music. The group provides entertainment at libraries, nursing homes and area festivals and events. Their Mission Statement describes them best: "To entertain and educate our neighbors and communities with beautiful music by mountain dulcimers and traditional mountain instruments."

Terry's Tree Tips: Top picks for our area

Terry's favorites for the area, along with a few notes:

LARGE TREES

Nyssa sylvatica/Black Gum (30-50 feet): Great native tree. Beautiful fall color, fluorescent yellow to orange to scarlet to purple.

Acer rubrum/Red Maple (40-60 feet): Red Maples are in the Montgomery Road islands from Montgomery Park to Pfeiffer Park. Fall colors vary from yellow to brilliant red

Acer saccharum/Sugar Maple (60-75 feet): Fall color is brilliant yellow, burnt orange to red.

Quercus bicolor/Swamp White Oak (50-60 feet): Normal fall color is yellow to reddish-purple

Fagus grandifolia/American Beech (50-70 feet): Fall color is beautiful golden bronze

MEDIUM TREES

Pyrus calleryana/Aristocrat Pear (30-40 feet): fall color ranges from yellow to red

Gleditsia triacanthos/Skyline Honeylocust (30-40 feet): Bright golden yellow fall color

Betula nigra/River Birch (40 feet): Bark exfoliates into papery sheets and plates. Not much for fall color; messy, so watch where it's planted.

Magnolia grandiflora/Southern Magnolia "Bracken's Brown Beauty" (30 feet): Large green leaves with rusty Brown below. Among area's most cold hardy.

Syringa reticulata/Japanese Tree Lilac (20-30 feet): Dark green in summer, fragrant creamy white flowers early – mid June

SMALL TREES

Cercis Canadensis/Eastern Redbud (20-30 feet): Fall color yellow green to an excellent yellow

Cornus alternifolia/Pagoda Dogwood (15-25 feet): Not very showy compared to the florida dogwood in flowers, but the spreading, horizontal, purplish color branches is beautiful and interesting.



Fast grower and does well in Cincinnati.

Prunus virginiana/Common Chokeberry "Canada Red" (20-25 feet): Flowers are white. leaves are dark green at first, changing to reddish purple

Chionanthus virginicus/White Fringetree (12-20 feet): Flowers white, slightly fragrant good choice for a small tree

Sassafras albidum/Common Sassafras (30 feet): One of my favorite native trees for fall color. Shades of yellow to deep orange to scarlet and purple. (A couple of sassafras mixed in with a Black Gum, the fall color would be unmatched anywhere)

It's deer rutting season, so protect your trees with deer guards. Rutting season goes from August until the New Year. Remember that Cincinnati is in Zone 6 when choosing trees and shrubs.

Study to focus on Montgomery Road area

At the October business session, City Council approved legislation creating an interim development control district (IDC) for the land between Marketplace Lane and Hopewell Road on the east side of Montgomery Road.

The IDC is designed to place temporary restrictions on any new development in the designated area for up to one year, while a planning study is conducted to evaluate whether a new set of permanent land use controls should be established. The current zoning for the property in the

IDC is general business and multi-family residential.

The IDC was adopted in order for the Planning Commission to work with McBride Dale Clarion, a planning consultant, and staff on a review of current land use patterns, transitioning between land uses, site design issues, and traffic concerns.

With a significant amount of redevelopment along the Montgomery Road corridor in the past three years, the City wants to ensure that any redevelopment in this area is sensitive to adjacent property

and is consistent with the desired character of the community. Much of the land in the study area is currently undeveloped, although some owners may pursue development options in the near future.

This study will be separate from the current proposal by Twin Lakes to purchase approximately three acres adjacent to the Safety Center and construct seven duplex condominiums units. That proposal is currently under review by the Planning Commission.

Weighing the economics of leaf collection

Every fall, the City receives calls and questions from residents asking why a curbside vacuum program is not offered in Montgomery as offered in neighboring communities.

City staff has reviewed and evaluated vacuum collection programs and determined that, even with a significant financial investment exceeding \$200,000 for the purchase of vacuum equipment, larger dump trucks with leaf boxes and hiring of additional seasonal help, the City would most likely only be able to provide two curbside vacuum collections of leaves at each Montgomery household.

The current program that offers each resident a 5 week unlimited yard waste collection by the City's waster hauler, Rumpke, Inc., provides much better service than the alternative prospect of only 2 vacuum collections during the leaf collection "season".

Specifically, the current collection program has a number of advantages over a vacuum program for residents.

While the City's current leaf collection program requires that all leaves or other yard waste be placed in a paper bag or in a container, this also prevents the

leaves from being blown into yards, streets or even blocking storm sewers as can be the case with the vacuum program when leaves are simply raked into piles along or onto the roadway.

Under the current City of Montgomery program, residents know the weekly collection schedule and each household has at least 5 dates where they can place leaves curbside for collection. In contrast, vacuum programs are less predictable and are extremely weather dependent. Most agencies providing a vacuum program report that it is very difficult to predict or estimate when, or for how long crews will be in any given area and typically can only definitively predict 24 hours in advance of where crews will be collecting leaves.

Communities that provide vacuum collection have dump sites in, or very close, to their community. Most agencies have their own dump site so they do not pay dumping or "tipping" fees. Those communities that provide vacuum collection claim that a dump/composting site in the community improves the productivity of leaf collection crews as it reduces the amount of travel time for collection trucks to dump the leaves that

have been collected.

The City of Montgomery does not have a dump site and the closest available dump sites are approximately 15 miles away.

The projected costs for the labor intensive vacuum program would at least triple or even quadruple the City's leaf collection/disposal costs. Additionally, a vacuum program would effectively require the entire Service and Parks crews to collect leaves. Having all staff working on collecting leaves would negatively impact the City's ability to deliver and complete other existing fall programs and projects

An alternative environmentally friendly leaf "disposal" option that residents should consider is to recycle fallen leaves through use of a mulching mower, composting, or a combination of both options. Leaves that are properly composted over the winter will break down into an excellent soil amendment just in time for the spring planting season.

Call Public Works Director Bob Nikula at 891-2424 with questions about the City's leaf collection program or for information about how to compost leaves.

Volunteer Fair gains interest

The second Volunteer Fair in 2006 was held on September 28, in City Hall. City Council Members and volunteers representing nine of the City's boards and commissions were in attendance to greet the guests and to provide specific information about their leadership roles. Resource and project materials were displayed and sign ups to attend upcoming meetings were available as well as copies of the 2006 Handbook of Volunteer Opportunities. If you were unable to attend the event and would like information about Montgomery's Volunteer Program, or would like a handbook mailed to you, please contact Joyce Yock, Volunteer Coordinator (792-8329).

Git Fit...

Tummy Tucks:
Nov. 28 to Jan. 11 (13 classes with no class on Dec. 26), Tues. & Thurs., 6-7 p.m.; Annex Bldg. Register by Nov 20. Cost \$50R \$55NR

20/20/20 Boomer Style:
Nov. 28 to Jan. 11 (13 classes with no class on Dec. 26), Tues. & Thurs., 9-10 a.m.; Annex Bldg. Register by Nov 20. Cost \$50R \$55NR

Volunteers Needed to "Trim the Town"

Members of Montgomery Woman's Club and the Beautification and Tree Commission will again generously share their time to coordinate the annual, holiday decorating project in the Heritage District. Many more volunteers, however, are needed to create the festive, holiday streetscape that has become a Montgomery tradition.

The first stage of the project is scheduled for Saturday, November 11.

Volunteers will meet at 9:30 am in Swaim Lodge to prepare the decorations for display. The project work is expected to be completed in a few hours.

On Monday, November 13, an army of volunteers will meet between 9:30-10 am at the Universalist Church for specific instructions and decorating materials for hanging the wreaths and garland in the Heritage District.

The town should be completely trimmed in festive attire by noon. Parking will be available in the City parking lot off Shelly Lane.

If you can lend a few hours of time for either stage of this highly visible project, please contact Joyce Yock, Volunteer Coordinator at 792-8329.

Riblet & Roblero join Montgomery staff

Brian Riblet and **Tracy Roblero** have filled vacancies on the Montgomery staff. Brian joined the City of Montgomery this past September as the new Assistant Public Works Director. Tracy is the Montgomery's City Planner.

Brian Riblet brings with him

more than 17 years of experience from the City of Defiance in Northwest Ohio. During his tenure with the City of Defiance, Brian served as the Director of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery and also as the Superintendent of Streets, Buildings, & Lands.



Brian Riblet

He also spent the past 9 years as the basketball coach at Ayersville High School.

Brian and wife Lora have two children. Brian enjoys sports of all kinds, outdoor activities, spending time with his family & friends, and rooting for his favorite team (*the Cleveland Browns!*)

Young artists sought for holiday coloring contest

Children from 2 to 14 years old are invited to color a classic holiday scene for the annual coloring contest. Entries will be displayed from 4 to 6 p.m. at the the Universalist Church during the December 2 Holiday in the Village.

Prize winners in each of the age groups will be announced before the tree lighting ceremony, with the Grand Prize winner to flip

the switch to light the Montgomery Holiday Tree and ride with Santa in a horse drawn carriage down Montgomery Road! Pick up entry forms at the Municipal Building starting November 13, then return entries by 4 p.m. on November 27 to be included in the display.

Artwork will be judged in the categories of Most Creative, Best Use of Color, and Overall Skill.

Opportunities Available for Volunteer Leaders

Terms of service will soon expire for some of our City's board and commission volunteers. Playing a vital role in our community, these citizens share their time and talents in a leadership capacity while afforded an excellent opportunity to learn more about our City government at work.

Attending sample meetings is a great way to learn more about the work of the volunteer teams and to have an opportunity to meet additional, civic minded, community members that serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals and the following commissions: Arts, Beautification & Tree; Environmental Advisory; Landmarks; Parks & Recreation; Planning and Sister Cities.

If you are interested in obtaining information about activities, projects, terms of service and meeting times for any of these leadership teams, contact Joyce Yock, Volunteer Coordinator (792-8329) or visit www.MontgomeryOhio.org.

Art workshop to feature holiday theme

Children from 6 to 12 years old can learn to create a bit of color for the holidays. Held at Terwilliger's Lodge from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, December 4, 11 and 18, this acclaimed Young Rembrandts class will feature the excitement and fun surrounding the holiday season. The first class will offer the opportunity to draw such art as nutcrackers, stockings elves and candy canes. The second

Tracy Roblero has a Bachelors Degree from the University of Cincinnati in Environmental Studies and a Master's Degree in Planning from Indiana University. A native of Cincinnati, she moved back



Tracy Roblero

home after completing her Master's program and worked at Kendle International as a clinical data associate until

obtaining a position with Bayer Becker. Tracy then worked as the Director of Planning and Zoning for Goshen Township in Clermont County.

Tracy has a newborn daughter Isabela and a spoiled dog, Colt. She enjoys boating, hiking, reading and time with Isabela.

gathering will focus on a variety of themed characters and scenes from all celebrations, Christmas, Kwanzaa and Hanukkah. By the third meeting, the children will complete one large holiday scene (perfect for framing and gift-giving!). Pencils, markers, color pencils and sharpies will be used with all materials provided. The cost \$48 for all three 90 minute sessions.

Holiday in the Village to spark the spirit of the season on Dec. 2

The City of Montgomery has partnered with Ohio National Financial Services and Bethesda North Hospital to present a spectacular, festive series of holiday events designed to spark the holiday spirit in everyone.

Holiday in the Village Tree Lighting

**Saturday, December 2
4 to 6 p.m.
Downtown Montgomery
Historic District**

Share in the cheer of a classic holiday season with carolers, Santa and his live reindeer friends, carriage rides, Mrs. Claus crafting and a heralding brass ensemble as Montgomery celebrates the tradition of the *Holiday in the Village Tree Lighting Ceremony*.

Watch as the lights along Montgomery Road add a splash and sparkle of twinkling white throughout the streets for a wrapping of winter warmth. Tour your family through the Universalist Church to view local art talent in the coloring contest and create your own winter craft with Mrs. Claus or write your letter to Santa and send it directly to the North Pole.

Holiday Horse and Buggy Rides will be running through the downtown leaving from the church and perfect for the whole family to enjoy. Popcorn, coffee and cocoa will be available.

FREE Trolley Rides

Plan to take the FREE shuttle from the Holiday in the Village Tree Lighting event to Ohio National's Victorian Holiday Village and to the Bethesda North Hospital Light Up a Life holiday event, then return for the new High Street A Cappella Holiday Concert at 7pm in Universalist Church...great family winter fun! The FREE Trolley will be in operation from 4:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Stops will include the Neully-Plaisance Square at Cooper and Montgomery Road, Twin Lakes, Bethesda North Main Lobby, and Ohio National Victorian Holiday Village entrance. Look for the candy cane markers to board the free holiday trolley.

High Street A Cappella Holiday Concert

**Saturday, December 2
7 p.m.
Universalist Church**

Enjoy a new holiday tradition with the debut of the High Street A Cappella Holiday Concert at 7 pm in historic



Universalist Church. The concert features the High Street A Cappella Men's Octet, performing classical, popular and holiday selections.

The concert will benefit the Montgomery Women's Club scholarship fund that supports local children. Tickets are \$5 and are available online at www.montgomeryohio.org or at City Hall.

Seating is limited, so if you don't hurry to buy your ticket, you can try to catch the High Street A Cappella members gathered around a fire pit along Montgomery Road or on the trolley caroling during the Holiday in the Village celebration.

Ohio National Victorian Holiday Village

**6 to 8:30 p.m.
Friday, December 1 & 7
Saturday, December 8**

**5 to 8:30 p.m.
December 2**

The Victorian Holiday Village is in its fifth year as a holiday tradition for families in our community with its lights, child-sized houses decorated with holiday scenes, free cocoa and cookies, free photos with St. Nick and more. The Victorian Holiday Village is offered free of charge, with the holiday request that each guest brings at least one non-perishable food item as a donation. Look for the ONtime Express miniature train and the Cheery Elves as well!

Bethesda North Hospital Light UP a Life

**Saturday, December 2
5 to 8 p.m.
Hospital Main Lobby**



Held in the conference center above the main lobby of the hospital and gift shop area, Bethesda North's holiday event features local entertainers, hot cider and cookies, the Light Up a Life holiday program, a

free gift and other seasonal performances and activities. The Light Up a Life program sells strands of holiday lights to recognize or memorialize loved ones with holiday lights shining in their honor. Plenty of parking is available on site to take advantage of the Free Trolley that will circulate among the other celebrations during the evening.



Holiday Greenery Sale

If you love the traditional look of downtown historic Montgomery with classic wreaths, garland and swags decking the streetscape, you can carry over the look to your home and support your local parks and programs at the same time. Live wreaths with red ribbons, strands of greenery and mixed pine bough swags are on sale now by the local Boy Scouts.

Limited quantities are available for personal orders so you can capture the Norman Rockwell holiday ambience of days gone by. All orders will be available for pickup at the Holiday in the Village event in downtown Montgomery on December 2 between 4 and 6 p.m.

Prices:
22-inch mixed evergreen wreaths with ribbon & pine cone
\$20 each

10-foot section of garland rope
\$20 each

Swags 30-inches long x 22-inches wide with ribbon and pine cone
\$17 each