

Montgomery Bulletin

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE CITY OF MONTGOMERY

September 2007

Yard Waste Collection

In addition to the special brush collection (see page 7), regular yard waste collection is still underway with a limit of three yard waste bags, 30 gallon cans, three bundles or one 90 gallon toter being picked up for free. Starting November 5 thru December 7, there will be unlimited yard waste pickup, including containers of leaves. All leaves must be in either 30 gallon cans that can be dumped or in paper yard waste bags and placed at the curb. Any yard waste placed in plastic bags, including leaves, will not be picked up.

Council refers two issues to fall ballot

Montgomery City Council voted on August 22 to place two issues on the November ballot for voter consideration. The first issue is an initiative petition submitted by individuals within the community who requested that the City purchase 10 acres of property on Montgomery Road for a park. The second issue places a 1.25 mil property tax on the ballot to raise funds for the purchase of the property as required by the initiative petition.

Initiative petitions: the process

An initiative petition is a process through which individuals can request a law be adopted by the City by submitting a petition and having that matter placed on the ballot for voter approval. This process requires signatures from 10 percent of the registered voters from the community who voted in the last general election.

The current initiative petition is a measure that would require the City to purchase approximately 10 acres of property on the east side of Montgomery Road, north of Schoolhouse Lane and south of the Montgomery Safety Center. This petition requires that the city purchase this property and develop it as a park. The petition does not provide a funding source for the purchase of the property.

Events since the initiative petition was submitted

Since the filing of the initiative petition, several actions have occurred in order to ensure

adequate review and consideration of the initiative petition.

Public Hearing on August 8:

Montgomery City Council conducted an August 8 public hearing regarding the proposed Montgomery Road park initiative petition. Members of the Montgomery City Council served as the petition review committee and

examined the proposed initiative petition and took public comment on the proposal. During the hearing, individuals spoke both in favor of, and against, the initiative petition.

The City's Law Director pointed out a number of conflicts and problems with the petition language, including language which restricted Council's right to repeal the law if a purchase was not possible. It was also noted that the petition did not contain a funding source for the acquisition of the property.

The Council Review Committee recommended that the initiative petition property acquisition question be tied specifically to a funding levy which would support the property purchase. This recommendation was referred to City Council for consideration at its August 22 meeting. Neither the Council Review Committee nor City Council could reject the initiative petition.

The Initiative Petition Review Committee also requested the individuals who submitted the petition work with the

City's Law Director to address concerns related to conflicts and language problems in the petition, as well as the lack of a funding source to purchase the property.

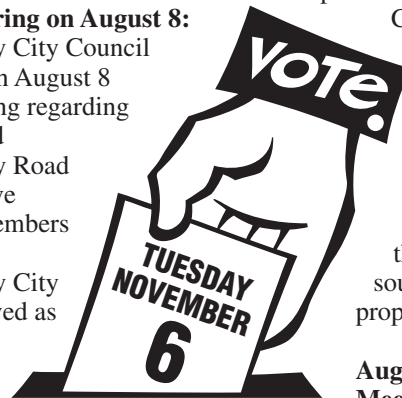
August 22nd Council Meeting:

At its meeting of August 22, the Montgomery City Council took action on the Initiative Petition Review Committee's recommendation to place the initiative petition on the ballot. It also voted to place on the ballot an issue to create a funding source for the property purchase.

A meeting between the initiative petitioners and the Law Director failed to produce an agreement to modify the petition. At the Council meeting, petitioners were not willing to modify their petition to address concerns in the language. Separately, they rejected the proposed funding source for the acquisition of the property.

Given the fact that the petitioners were unwilling to modify the petition, the Montgomery City Council's only option was to refer the initiative petition to the ballot.

The City Council eventually passed legislation to add a 1.25



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

A message from City Council

City employees embrace high performance culture

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



This month's message by Council Member **Barry Joffe**

Our 2005 citizen survey revealed that 97% of households are "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the quality of life in Montgomery; 85% felt the city was responsive to their request when they contacted the city and 95% felt their household member was treated courteously. This level of citizen satisfaction is not achieved just by accident. And while we on Council feel gratified by these results, the perspective that we can always do better no matter how good we think we are, is what marks our high performance drive.

Why develop a High Performance Organization?

"We strive for an HPO culture because we want better customer service, we want to maximize staff and financial resources and use our employees to their fullest potential for the betterment of the organization and the city", declared Fire Chief Paul Wright, who together with City Manager Cheryl Hilvert and Assistant City Manager Wayne Davis, champions the city's efforts internally.

For the City, this has meant abandoning a top down style of management and empowering employees to commit to a course of action based on their assessment of what is "the right thing" to do in a given set of circumstances and taking ownership for those actions. In providing me an update on progress, the three enthused about "our road to HPO" harking back to the training they received at the University of Virginia.

And few of us realize that our

city has emerged with a national and international reputation as a leader in the implementation of a high performance culture, endorsed by the university, "mother ship" for the dissemination of the HPO concept in government organizations. Our team has delivered presentations at the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and teaches classes as part of ICMA University. "We are contacted by other cities to provide presentations and advice on their paths to implementation" explained Cheryl Hilvert.

It has been a challenging road to navigate through organizational change. Employees have had to learn to move beyond their narrow organizational silos and find solutions to situations outside of their technical comfort zone. And this has affected every part of the human resource system as job descriptions needed to be rewritten with less emphasis on technical skills and a greater focus on leadership, management and team skills.

HPO in Action

Since implementing HPO in 2001, several city task teams have emerged. A notable example is the efforts of a cross-functional employee Health Care benefits team that has just reported to Council on the outstanding results they achieved in containing costs as they renegotiated the city's health, dental and life insurance benefits. The percentage change in premium rates that this team has accomplished over the last five years in comparison to changes seen in Public Sector premium rates in Greater Cincinnati is a truly remarkable example of cost containment for the city while securing the "right" coverage for employees.

Or witness the results of our Traffic Safety Team who were able to reduce the incidence of

four "failure to yield" accidents a week and three injury accidents a month opposite Columbia Oldsmobile prior to 2004 to a record of zero "failure to yield" accidents since that time by studying the problem and implementing a solution. The time invested to study this and find a solution compared to the time and resources used to deal with the accidents, not to mention the dangers, represented a return on investment to the city of 12:1!

Yet another example is the award-winning presentation "Caught in the Web" initiated and developed by one of our patrol officers and our school resource officer. Designed to help parents and students better understand the dangers of internet sites such as MySpace, Face book and Xanga, it has been presented to regional school districts reaching over 4,000 students and 800 parents.

Not to mention the numerous individual situations where employees have raised the bar in service. Witness the time an elderly couple got stuck in their trailer on I-71 and our officers brought the couple into the fire station and arranged for them to get dinner from Montgomery Inn; or the elderly resident who was involved in an accident on his way to Subway to get dinner for his ailing wife. The officer took him to Subway, bought the food and took it to the resident's wife.

Through our nurturing of an HPO culture, these kinds of behaviors whether in the context of a project team or individual effort, are being molded into the fabric of our organization. These are the individual encounters that elevate the citizen appreciation of the city to levels seldom achieved by other cities of our size and for which we can feel rightly proud to declare: "We live in a quality (driven) city!"



to 82 community teens who generously shared a total of 620 hours of their summer vacation time to lend a hand with the City's programs and events. Many of these teens accepted a large time commitment supervising young children for one or more of the four sessions of the Safety Village Programs. Numerous others made a short term commitment to manage game booths at the July 4th Festival in the Park and the Bastille Day Celebration. Without the enthusiastic participation of these teens, these community programs and events would not be possible. A gigantic "THANK YOU" is extended to each and every one of them for the vital role they played in the success of our City's summer happenings.

COUNCIL CORNER

Montgomery City Council will meet in its regular monthly business session on September 5 at the City Hall. Meetings begin at 7 p.m., with

public comment welcomed on each item before Council.

NEW LEGISLATION

- A Resolution Authorizing

the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Bob McDorman Chevrolet, Inc. for the purchase of a 2008 Chevrolet Silverado, 2500 HD

Recent Council Actions

AUGUST 1 BUSINESS SESSION

- An ordinance adopting goals and policies for a Montgomery Comprehensive Community Plan (*Passed 5-0*)
- An ordinance establishing regulations for street furniture/furnishings in the Heritage Overlay District (*Passed 5-0*)
- A resolution accepting a bid and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Don S. Cisle Contractor Inc. for the 2007 Remington Road

Improvement Project (*Passed 5-0*)

- A resolution to adopt recommendation of the Montgomery Tax Incentive Review Council with respect to the compliance of all Tax Increment Financing Districts within the City of Montgomery (*Passed 5-0*)
- A resolution designating records managers for the City of Montgomery (*Passed 5-0*)
- A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with United Healthcare to

provide medical coverage for full-time employees (*Passed 5-0*)

- A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Dental Care Plus to provide dental coverage for full-time employees (*Passed 5-0*)
- A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Lincoln Financial Group to provide life insurance coverage for full-time employees (*Passed 5-0*)
- An ordinance

amending Section 34.05 of the Code of Ordinances establishing employee benefits and declaring an emergency (*Passed 5-0*)

AUGUST 22 WORK SESSION

- A resolution providing for the submission to the electorate of a 1.25 mill property tax levy for parks and recreational purposes (*passed 6-0, 1 abstain*)
- A resolution referring the Natural Parkland Initiative to the general election ballot (*passed 6-0, 1 abstain*)

Ballot issues...

Continued from the front page

mil Park Levy to the November ballot. This park levy would provide a funding source for the purchase and development of the property identified in the initiative petition.

Two issues to appear on the November 6th ballot

During its meeting on August 22, City Council discussed the initiative petition as well as the need for a funding source with which to acquire the property should the initiative be adopted by the voters in November.

Mayor Gerri Harbison stated, "Given the fact that several

hundred registered voters in the community signed this initiative petition, we believe the citizens in the community have a right to vote on this matter in November." She added, "It is important that a realistic funding mechanism must be attached to the ballot initiative in order for the community to be fiscally responsible for any decision to purchase this property."

"The City Council reviewed this matter and listened to the citizens who spoke for and against the issue as it developed its recommendation to place the initiative on the ballot," said Vice Mayor Ken Suer. "It also carefully considered the potential financial impact to the City should this measure pass and also recommended the Park Levy

be placed on the ballot as well."

"In its recommendation, the Council recognized the need for the City to be financial managers of the taxpayers' dollars and decided that, if the petition must be placed before the voters, the establishment of a funding source is essential in order for us to be fiscally responsible to our citizens," Mayor Harbison added. "The land may be a wonderful addition to the City park system, but we must be able to pay for the park if we want it."

For additional information regarding the two issues which will be placed on the November ballot, visit the City of Montgomery website at www.montgomeryohio.org or contact City Hall at 891-2424.

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

Tickets remain for Lecture Series

A few series tickets remain for the 45th season of the Montgomery Woman's Club Town Hall Lecture Series. Speakers this year include Astronaut Eileen Collins, Entertainer Joan Rivers, Author Scott Turow, Troubadour Bill Schustik, and Announcer Boomer Esiason.

Cost of the entire series is \$100 per person. If individual tickets are available, they will be sold the week prior to each lecture at a cost of \$35 per ticket. For tickets, visit www.montgomerywomansclub.org or call 684-1632.

Council adopts new Comprehensive Plan

Did You Know...

Did you know that reservations for Terwilliger Lodge, Swaim Lodge and the Universalist Church can all be made from the comfort of your own home using the City's website? Online reservations of these facilities can be purchased at www.montgomeryohio.org using your Visa or Mastercard. From the home page of the website, click on the "Facility Reservations" link where you will be prompted to create a profile for yourself which will permit you to make your purchase.

Are you a business in the City of Montgomery? You can now enroll your business information on our website using our online service request feature. Your information on location, hours, contact info and a description of the services you offer will be displayed in the business section of our website for visitor's information. For any questions on how to use the online purchasing options or to enroll your business on the website, call City

Montgomery City Council passed legislation on August 1 to adopt a new Comprehensive Community Plan. This plan updates the previous plan under which the City has operated since 1986.

As with the 1986 plan, the new document provides a series of general policies and principles that will guide the City in the future as it confronts pressures for redevelopment, addresses environmental concerns, and evaluates how to make public expenditures. The document is broken into chapters dealing with various land use categories: transportation, government services, schools and education, and environment and sustainability. The Parks Master Plan (*see story on facing page*) currently being developed will be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan by reference when it is completed.

The new Comprehensive Plan

was initiated at the request of City Council in 2006. The update was established as a priority in the five year strategic plan. A committee comprised of members of the Planning Commission and City Council worked with staff to determine the scope and content of the plan. Each chapter contains sections identifying past and current conditions, past city policies, current issues, and policies for the future. The plan does not establish specific requirements for any single parcel of land, but rather sets broad policies by different types of land uses. Typically the Planning Commission uses the Comprehensive Plan when evaluating zoning change requests and property redevelopment proposals.

The 1986 plan focused on maintaining the residential character of Montgomery. The 2007 update maintains this emphasis, as reflected in the

first line of the City's mission statement which provides the introduction for the document. The plan also has expanded discussion on supporting new condominium opportunities for Montgomery residents who would like to downsize, but stay in Montgomery. The plan envisions these opportunities to be created around the downtown Heritage District. At the request of members of Council, more emphasis was placed on environmental issues, including encouraging environmentally friendly buildings, reducing solid waste, and controlling the amount and quality of storm water runoff.

The Comprehensive Plan will provide a blueprint for future City leaders to use for the next 10-15 years. Copies of the plan are available from the Community Development Department and is posted on the City's website.

Survey revealed traffic concerns of residents

The recent Citizen Survey received many responses regarding concerns with traffic. The majority of traffic related comments identified specific problems such as traffic volumes using Montgomery Road, traffic speeds, traffic congestion and on-street parking in the Heritage District.

In response to this feedback, the City is focusing efforts to provide safe and efficient movement of traffic within the community and the regional network. While local roadways can be overwhelmed when motorists divert from highways, it has been clearly established that traffic progression in Montgomery is also impacted if typical traffic volumes exceed capacity on roads beyond the City's jurisdictional boundaries. As typical daily traffic volumes on Montgomery Road near City Hall exceed 22,000 vehicles per day, it is critical to have a roadway network that balances available

roadway capacity with a coordinated traffic signal system responsive to changes in traffic patterns.

Capacity: A recent example of how the City proactively worked at a regional level to provide a roadway network capable of handling current and future traffic is the ongoing construction project by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to Montgomery Road north of Weller Road. This portion of Montgomery Road was identified as requiring additional capacity to facilitate traffic progression. This multi-jurisdictional project had the goal to form a collaborative funding partnership with Montgomery, Sycamore Township, Symmes Township, Loveland, Deerfield Township and the Warren County and Hamilton County Engineers to design solutions for present and future traffic demands. The plan leveraged local funding to complete a preliminary

engineering design to present to ODOT that would result in the authorization of state funding to complete the capital improvements proposed. This successful partnership will be approximately 50% complete by the end of this year and will provide a roadway corridor with capacity that provides for efficient, safe traffic flow.

Coordination: Montgomery operates a traffic responsive traffic signal system that includes all signals along Montgomery Road between Bethesda North Hospital and Kennedy Lane, as well as the two signalized intersections on Main Street. This system is managed on a daily basis by traffic engineers to provide for the orderly and coordinated movement of traffic.

By focusing on improvements to address capacity and coordination, the City is making progress toward addressing resident concerns over local traffic.

Citizen Leadership Academy seeks first applicants

Billed as “the coolest civics class you’ll ever take,” Montgomery’s Citizen Leadership Academy will begin accepting applications for its inaugural class on September 1. Limited to only 20 participants, the Academy is specially designed to transform residents into actively engaged citizens. Particularly targeted will be those residents not normally involved in local government.

The goal of the nine session Academy will be to “harvest the experience dividend” in residents. The City hopes to develop an ongoing positive relationship and two-way constructive dialogue between Leadership Academy graduates

and City officials/staff in an effort to build an even stronger and more enriching community.

The nine workshops will offer residents a unique opportunity to learn about our community through lectures, special guest speakers, off-site tours, debate/discussions and interactive simulation

exercises. This instruction format will provide a “total immersion” into issues that are important to the citizens of Montgomery.

Sessions will provide stimulating insight into timely, provocative topics, such as Zen and the Art of Citizenship; Dreams, Aspirations and Taxes... Is The Price Right?; Reading, Writing and Test Scores? Hands on experiences will include an opportunity to

coordinate relief for a simulated table top disaster and to perform a simulated surgery during our tour of Bethesda Hospital.

Annually, the City will sponsor a “summit” for Citizens’ Leadership Academy graduates to solicit input and feedback from participants on the City’s issues, plans and activities. The City will also maintain an e-mail list of graduates to survey graduates on issues and maintain close communication.

The Academy will be offered from January through March and feature a combination of evening and Saturday morning sessions. Workshops of about three hours in length (including a meal) will be held three times per month. A small fee of \$69 will be charged for participation in the series to offset the cost of food and materials. For information or applications, contact Ray Kingsbury at 792-8359, or visit the City’s website.



Park plan gains direction from residents

The final stage of the Parks Master Plan process is nearing completion. The Park Vision for the next 10 years is being formed based on the input of citizens, stakeholders, and community leaders. The study revealed the existing parks were in good condition and offered a broad range of amenities that were well distributed throughout the community.

The number of acres of Montgomery’s parks, open space and trails are almost twice the average of similar cities in Hamilton County. Citizens indicated that additional amenities and programs should be added to the parks to enhance use, beauty, and enjoyment of the existing park land.

proposed plan evolved into an emphasis on gardens.

■ Crossroads garden at Pfeiffer Park would welcome people arriving in Montgomery and offer an oasis for people using the Montgomery Road trail.

■ Performance garden at Montgomery Park would accommodate festivals and community celebrations. Consolidating the pavilion, program space and all season restrooms in to one attractive building.

■ Interpretive gardens celebrating the history of Montgomery at Pioneer Park.

■ Study the addition of parking and new trails at Johnson Nature Preserve

■ Wedding garden at Dulle Park

■ Investigate heating the pool with solar panels, adding new water elements and value of additional parking

■ Upgrade the existing athletic fields with renovations improving player and spectator amenities.

■ Environmentally friendly initiatives for operations and products for new park construction. Create educational elements explaining the importance.

■ Create a long range plan to connect Montgomery’s trail system to regional and statewide bike trails cooperatively with adjacent cities

■ Maintain a balance of passive and active amenities.

■ Assure that only limited existing amenities would be lost.

The final stage of the plan will focus on estimating costs of the enhancements, devising strategies to fund the projects besides tax dollars, and creating an action plan.

School year begins

Consider these tips to help make this a safe school year:

The City of Montgomery completes repairs to all public sidewalks. To report a settled, heaved or severely cracked sidewalk or any other structural problem relating to a public sidewalk, call 891-2424.

Branches or shrubs that overhang sidewalks can cause problems for pedestrians or motorists. If you have a public sidewalk along your property frontage, be sure to keep shrubs and trees trimmed to provide for a safe path. City crews will trim overhanging branches that are identified as a problem for safe passage along sidewalks.

While the City does not require homeowners to clear snow from public sidewalks, residents should be conscientious during winter months since many children walk to bus stops or to school.

Homeowners are responsible for routine maintenance of public sidewalks for work such as edging, weed control, or sweeping off debris. Homeowners are encouraged to be proactive and courteous by regularly inspecting the condition of the sidewalk and taking corrective action if conditions are such that routine maintenance may be needed.

Plan Highlights

■ Trees, flowers, shrubbery are enjoyed and celebrated in the parks. The concepts in the

Labor Day Concert planned

The Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Orchestra (BAMSO) will perform its annual Labor Day concert September 3 in the Blue Ash Towne Square. The concert begins at 6 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public.

Directed by Maestro Michael Chertock, the performance will bring together Music Directors and performers from past and present to celebrate the organization's 20th Anniversary. Founding Music Director Paul Stanberry and his successor James Braid will be on hand as guest conductors. Three of the 2006 Young Artist Competition winners will display their artistic mastery of the piano, with first place winner, Tiffany Woo, playing Chopin's 2nd Piano Concerto in F minor, second place winner, Sonoka Ito, playing Brahms's 1st Piano Concerto in D minor, and special performance winner, ten-year-old Kevin Bao, playing Beethoven's 3rd Piano Concerto in C minor. The program will also include Verdi's Overture to La Forza del Destino, Tchaikovsky's Polonaise from Eugene Onegin and Brahms's Hungarian Dances.

In case of rain, the performance will be held at Sycamore Junior High School, 5757 Cooper Road, in Montgomery. Visit the BAMSO web site at www.bamso.org for directions and more details.

Montgomery listed among best 'Burbs'

The City of Montgomery was ranked the third best "Burb" in the Tri-State according to the April 2007 issue of *CincyBusiness*.

The magazine rated the top 15 area communities with home values above \$190,000 by using criteria on safety, education and property values.

According to the magazine, Montgomery stood out as being

"textbook Americana" and a "charmer." Montgomery ranked above such notable communities as Mason, Wyoming, Glendale and Amberley Village.

Best "Burb" Ranking Factors

- Average drive time to work
- Property crime rate
- Violent crime rate
- State report card
- Property taxes
- Median home sale price

Factors such as average drive time to work, property crime rates, violent crime rates, state department report cards, property

taxes and median home sale prices had the City of Montgomery standing proud at number three out of all evaluated communities within a 13-county metro region which included parts of Northern Kentucky and Southeast Indiana. Strategic Planning based on continual feedback from Montgomery citizens and businesses sets a plotted, needs-based course for sound financial planning to support key efforts that results in a vibrant, recognized and valued community.

Terry's Tree Tips

Important update on Emerald Ash Borer

The Emerald Ash Borer has now been detected in Hamilton County in various locations, although not yet in Montgomery. The EAB is an insect from Asia inadvertently imported 10-15 years ago that has invaded parts of Ohio and is killing Ash trees.



We do need to be prepared as a city and you as a resident to have a game plan on how and when we will address this issue when our Ash trees start to die. The City of Montgomery has approximately 555 Ash trees in our city parks, green space and right-of-ways. We continue to work with the Department of Agriculture to monitor the trees with no sign of the pest as of yet. The city's approach regarding the EAB is cautious and precautionary. The city stopped planting Ash trees over two years ago. We continue to monitor Ash trees and will be prepared to remove public trees as they become infested and die.

The City of Montgomery is planning a presentation to the public on the EAB by the Ohio Department of Agriculture along with the Hamilton County Extension Service for our residents to address concerns and

answer questions regarding the Emerald Ash Borer. The meeting date has not yet been set, but will be provided on the City website when available or by calling 891-2424. The meeting would be sponsored by the City's

Beautification and Tree Commission. Together we can become better prepared.

More details and answers to common questions can be found on the City's website.

Kiwanis Art Show returns

The 52nd annual Montgomery Kiwanis Sidewalk Art Show will be held in downtown

Montgomery on Sunday, September 16, from noon to 5 p.m.

Montgomery Road between Cooper Road and Taulman Avenue will be closed to vehicular traffic to accommodate the more than 50 artists who will set up their booths along the street.

The much anticipated annual event emphasizes local artists who use painting and drawing, sculpture and photography as mediums. The Art Show is also a venue for young artists from several high schools, with one talented youth receiving a \$500 art scholarship from the club.

Many artworks will be available for sale. Proceeds from this event are the main source of

funds for the Kiwanis community service projects including Project Angel Tree in which the club giftwraps 600 books given to needy children at Christmas through Cincinnati

Union Bethel. The club donated \$750 to Children's Hospital Medical Center, with another \$650 raised by club member Bertha McAninch. The annual Easter Egg Hunt and the Fishing Contest are also sponsored by the Montgomery Kiwanis Club.

Artists interested in a booth may contact Tom Eberhard at 791-2459 or David Freas at 891-3716 (dfreas@eos.net).



City ledgers clear routine state audit

Another example of the City's solid financial management was confirmed on August 8 when Wayne Bastin of Bastin & Company presented his audit findings to the City Council's Financial Planning Committee, which also serves as the city's audit committee. Each year the city's financial statements—published in the

comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR)—are audited by a public accounting firm, who is hired by the City and confirmed by the state auditor. Bastin & Company, LLC, is the City's current auditor.

According to the independent auditor's report, the City's financial statements "...present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position...of the City of Montgomery..." and

its various financial activities. Or, as Mr. Bastin said, the city passed the audit "with flying colors." The auditor also reviewed internal controls and compliance with accounting principles and laws. Again, the audit gave the city a positive report, finding no material deficiencies or noncompliance. The state auditor confirmed those findings, stating that the audit "is acceptable and requires no modifications."

There is one last step in the financial review process. The CAFR has been submitted to the Governmental Finance Officers Association (GFOA) in application for its Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The city has received the certificate for the past 11 years in a row and expects to receive number 12 for the 2006 CAFR.

Other evidence of city excellence in financial management includes the city's targeted fund balance policy, ongoing innovation projects and investment policy. For example, because of strong fund balances in the general, capital improvements, debt retirement and arts and amenities funds, the Financial Planning Committee reviewed the current policies and recommended strengthening the capital asset investments and maintenance via a reallocation of some general fund balance to the capital improvements fund.

Continuing its innovations policy, the city focused upon process improvements which streamline purchasing, simplify police arrests record keeping and speed up commercial building permit approvals. These improvements in efficiency improve customer service and save money. Finally, the investment policy successfully focuses upon protecting city principal while seeking safe and liquid investments.

Elements of Montgomery's Sound Financial Plan

- Excellence in Financial Reporting
- Targeted Fund Balance Policy
- Ongoing Innovation Projects/Efficiencies
- Sound Investment Policy

Fall brush pick-ups begin September 24

The Montgomery Service Department will again provide a fall curbside bulk collection of brush and limbs. The fall program begins September 24, and will be continue over a 5 week period. Each area's pick up week will be determined by at area's regular day of trash collection. **Please have your brush out at the curb by Sunday evening of your collection week.**

Guidelines for Pick-up

■ Since chipper crews will only make one pass through each neighborhood, residents must place brush curbside on the Sunday immediately prior to your scheduled collection week. Crews cannot return once they have completed service in an area.

■ Items are collected by hand

TRASH PICK-UP DAY	WEEK OF BRUSH PICK-UP
MONDAY	SEPT. 24 - 29
TUESDAY	OCT. 1 - OCT. 5
WEDNESDAY	OCT. 8 - 12
THURSDAY	OCT. 15 - 19
FRIDAY	OCT. 22 - 26

and fed into a chipping device, so brush containing nails, metal, stones or excessive dirt will not be picked up.

■ For safety sake, vines and branches with thorns will not be picked up.

■ Limbs must be between 3 feet and 10 feet in length and between 1/2 inch and 8 inches in diameter. Shorter branches, twigs and clippings should be placed in yard waste bags and/or cans to be picked up by Rumpke on your regular waste collection day.

■ Brush and limbs must be

placed at the edge of road or along the curb with the "cut" ends of brush toward the street in small piles. Please do not create large stacks or interwoven piles with "cut" ends placed in different directions as this makes the material difficult for crews to separate for collection.

■ Brush piles that are tied into bundles or are tangled will not be picked up.

■ Stumps, root balls and logs are not to be placed curbside for brush collection, but may be placed out for waste collection on regularly scheduled day.

For additional information regarding the curbside brush pick-up service, contact City Hall at 891-2424. Please note that dates for next spring's collection program have not yet been determined, but will be announced in an upcoming Montgomery Bulletin.

Pool celebrates successful year

With fall fast approaching, it's time to close the Montgomery Community Pool. Daily attendance at the pool during the 100-degree weather hit 870 guests. The pool, with its recent upgrades, also attracted 518 annual memberships. Swim lessons taught new skills to 265 youngsters.

Another bright spot for the pool was the 114 members of the Makos Swim Team, which netted several meet victories and highpoint recognition at local invitationals and at championships. The team is in their seventh season and steadily grow in skills as swimmers focused on building friendships and teamwork while having fun and getting exercise. (See related story on page 10.)



Local Florist "Springs" to new Waters

New Springwater Sweets and Flowers Owner Shaun Martin knows how to create the perfect ambiance for any event, ranging from intimate holiday gatherings at your home to private corporate events.

Serving the Greater Cincinnati area since 1983, Springwater Sweets and Flowers, a full service florist located at 9510 Montgomery Road, is expanding its range of services, including innovative "in-home" decorating, something "on the go" holiday entertainers will fully embrace! Specialty services include upscale fresh flower arrangements (contemporary and traditional), tropicals, plants and European/dish gardens, customized fruit and gourmet food baskets, wedding and event design, over 180 varieties of candy (including no sugar treats!), unique, affordable gifts including Willow Tree and Jim Shore collectibles, in-home decorating for the holidays or any special occasion and balloons and party decorations. For information, call 793-3377 or e-mail springwatersweets@fuse.net.

One man's junk is another man's art...

Everyone's a winner in recycling contest

The Montgomery Environmental Advisory Commission's 3rd annual Recycling Sculpture Contest attracted 20 entries, which were exhibited at the Universalist Church on July 14 during Montgomery's Bastille Day Celebration. Milk jugs, water bottles, pop cans, paper towel rolls, magazines,



newspapers and cardboard boxes aren't just for the Rumpke recycle bin anymore, they're the materials used to create whimsical landscapes, sculpted creatures, robots and flower arrangements for the annual Recycling Sculpture Contest.

With the help of the City of Montgomery, Cincinnati Reds, Friends & Co. Hair Salon, Hamilton County Solid Waste District, and Rumpke everyone who participated was able to receive a prize.

5-7 YEAR OLD AGE GROUP

First Prize

Sam Miles/Shrek Robot

Second Prize

Charles East/USA Rocket

Ryan Hertlein/The Lady Bud

Calvin Miles/Java Gumball

Delivery Truck

Jacob Mortensen/Jacob's Bonsai

Greenhouse

9 YEAR OLDS

First Prize

Andrew Frank/Robot Boy

Second Prize

Grace Whaley/Montgomery A Great Place to Relax and Recycle

10 YEAR OLDS

First Prize

Emily Bender/Recycle the German Shephard

Samantha Devore/Flower Power

Second Prize

Amy Sanker/Roxie Robot Only Thinks about Recycling

Grace Hertlein/Mouse House

11-15 YEAR OLDS

First Prize

Christopher Lerner/Funky Ferris Wheel

Second Prize

Laura Tiry/J.J. Girl Robot

ADULT

First Prize

Natalie Sharp/Life Recycled

Christiane Sears/Wilted

Second Prize

Cliff Goosman/Flowers in the Bottle

Pammy Sanker/Tisket-a-Tasket look what grows in my recycled basket

Joyce Spreckelmeier/Garden Shoe Clearer

GROUP EFFORT

First Prize

Matt Schipper, Chris Schipper, Scott McLaughlin/Rockin Recycables

Second Prize

Eric Sanker & Mom/Keep Swaim Park Clean: Recycle!

Car Show winners

Montgomery's first ever Car Show on August 11 attracted more than 100 entries. Here's the results of those winning awards:

Mayor's Choice

Joe Fee/'58 Porsche

Participant's Choice

R. Christiansen/'32 Packard

Best Paint

Mike Garlarde/'41 Willy's Overland

Best Engine

Brad Hodgdon/'64 Ford Galaxy

Best Interior

Anthony Anzer/'67 Pontiac GTO

Best Detailed

Donald Schnitzler/'71 Oldsmobile

Best Classic Truck

David Fehr/'36 Ford

Best Original Car

R. Christensen/'32 Packard

Best Custom Car

Keith Sanders/'79 Mustang

Best of Show

50s: Joe Fee/'58 Porsche

60s: Wayne McKee/'66 Corvette

70s: Clayton Steinbrink/'69

Mustang

80s: Jerry Allen/'82 Firebird

July 4th Parade winners

Trophies were awarded to the following entries in the July 4th Parade:

Classic Cars

Mike Mereness/'30 Franklin

F. D. Franklin/'56 Cadillac

Presidential Parade Car

Bob Zumbiel/'57 Corvette

Philip Schmidt/'64 Studebaker

Avanti

Larry Stanley/'67 Camaro

Delorean Club of Cincinnati

Dick Kaesemeyer/F-86 (Special

Award)

Ed Monahan/Plymouth Prowler

Blue Ash/Montgomery Rotary Club

Richard Kaesemeyer/'Lil Warbirds

Meadowbrook Care Center

Montgomery Woman's Club

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church

College & Career Class

Sycamore H.S. Marching Band

Syrian Shrine Clown Unit

Tri-State Loving Canines

William Knepp/Town Crier

Baseball Team

The Masons, sponsor of Montgomery Masonic Lodge #94

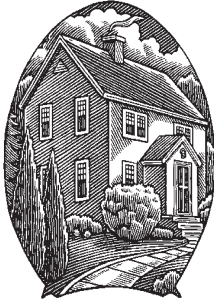
Military Unit

Korean War Veterans Assoc.

Winners named for '07 Beautification Awards

Members of the Beautification and Tree Commission have selected the 2007 Beautification Award winners.

Properties nominated by residents were judged on an attractive and well maintained landscape in addition to the overall appearance of the property.



Award recipients will be formally recognized at the September 19, City Council Work Session, scheduled for 7 p.m. in City Hall. Winners will receive a Resolution

of Appreciation plaque acknowledging their beautifying efforts and an 8 x 10-inch photograph of their property. In addition, an award yard sign recognizes each of the following winning properties:

RESIDENTIAL

Raquel & Miguel Alemany
10010 Trail Ln.

Pamela & Keith Olscamp
8552 Chaucer Place

Pat & Emily Raffel
10719 Adventure Ln.

Forrest & Johan Smith
7712 Cooper Rd.

Jeff & Patricia Wolverton
9610 Ross Ave.

Kim & Vivian McCracken
9850 Forest Glen Dr.

Lawrence & Mary Jo Bratburd
7927 Jolain Dr.

LANDSCAPE NICHE

Danielle Revelson
10583 Deerfield Rd.

MAILBOX SETTING

Amy & Dan Baker
10380 Penderly Dr.

MOST IMPROVED

Donald & Emily Lewis
7765 Remington Rd.

WINDOW BOX

Bette M. Collier
9844 Zig Zag Rd.

BUSINESS

Twin Lakes of Montgomery
9840 Montgomery Rd.

Ooops, we left somebody out...

In the August Bulletin we neglected to include Salon Bastille and Philipp's Law Firm in the list of "Participating Sponsors" for our City's July events. We apologize for the error and extend a belated but grateful "thank you" to these partners.

Volunteer Fair to be October 9

The 2007 Volunteer Fair is scheduled for Tuesday, October 9, in City Hall. For the convenience of community members, two sessions will be offered 9-11 a.m. and 4:30-7 p.m. Attending the Volunteer Fair is a great way to learn more about our City's volunteer leadership opportunities, including service on City boards and commissions, in addition to a myriad of episodic (short term) volunteer opportunities-staff support and assistance for City projects and events.

City Council Members, City staff and current volunteer leaders will be available at these informal sessions to provide detailed information about specific volunteer roles. The 2007-08 Volunteer Handbook, a valuable resource for community participation, will also be distributed at the event.

Opportunities abound for volunteer leaders

Several of the City's commissions are in need of additional civic-minded volunteers. Fall is a great time to explore a potential leadership role in one of the following commissions:

Beautification & Tree Commission recently completed the annual Beautification Awards program that will culminate at the September 19, City Council meeting as this year's recipients are honored with an award for their beautifying efforts. Upcoming "hands on" projects for the team include the Fall Plant Swap, the selection of the 2008 annuals to be planted in the medians and baskets and working with the Montgomery Woman's Club on the Holiday Decorating Project in the Heritage District. Some of the projects already completed this year include the Basket Planting Project, Arbor Day Celebration, Children's Marigold Project and the May Beautification Day. Needless to say, there's lots of activity on this commission, but the project responsibilities are shared by the members. And, you don't have to have a "green

thumb" for eligibility. Come "grow" with the commission on the second Monday of each month at 9 a.m. in City Hall.

Members of the **Sister Cities Commission** serve on the Bastille Day Committee and have recently met to critique this annual event that celebrates the City's friendship with Sister City Neuilly-Plaisance. While some members focused their attention on coordinating the Wine Booth, the Diaper Derby or a French related display in the Universalist Church; others accepted responsibility for event publicity or serving as event Chair. In October, commission members will host the annual International Reception, a well attended event that offers an opportunity to meet folks from a myriad of countries and learn more about other cultures while sampling ethnic foods. The event epitomizes their motto "Bringing the World Together...One Friendship at a Time." The seven members meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in City Hall.

The **Environmental Advisory**

Commission is the newest leadership team in the City, but has rapidly made an environmental impact in the community. Recently the group sponsored the Recycled Sculpture Contest that was on exhibit at the Bastille Day Celebration in the Universalist Church. In the past year, the commission has also sponsored the Great American Clean Up (litter removal project), and conducted the Computer Recycling Project, Mercury Thermometer Exchange and Storm Drain Labeling Project. The team meets the second Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. in City Hall.

Consider attending one or more of the monthly meetings to meet these civic minded residents and to learn more about their projects and commitment to the City. While all board and commission meetings are open to the public, it may be helpful to call ahead to announce your planned attendance to be included on the agenda's guest list and to verify the scheduled meeting time. For information, contact Joyce Yock, Volunteer Coordinator, at 792-8329.

Makos: The shark attacks!

The Montgomery Makos Swim Team is attacking the competition! The team enjoyed an outstanding season, learning new skills, building great friendships and competing in six dual meets, two invitationals and the exciting Tri-County League championships at Miami University.



At the championships, the Makos had a strong showing and finished third in its division among 1,200 swimmers from 13 teams. The Makos had several Top Ten finishes at championships.

The team provided special recognition to Patrick Aguilar and Hanna Gottschalk, who swept first place finishes at the

Rolling Hills Invitational. Gottschalk also won high point honor at the Beckett Ridge Invitational, with three first-place finishes and two second-place finishes. John Buschelmann was high point runner-up at the

Beckett Ridge Invitational, with a first-place finish in the butterfly event.

If you are interested in joining the Makos for the team's seventh season, or being a part of the team parent board, contact City of Montgomery at 891-2424 or check the website for details.

Volunteer at Bethesda

Bethesda Hospital is a resource for the entire region and is especially valuable for Montgomery residents who might need medical care.

Volunteers are regarded as a valuable support to the medical and technical staff, and offer compassionate caring assistance to patients and their families.

Bethesda is expanding its facilities, adding more than 100 beds. Service volumes are continually increasing in emergency services.

Volunteers are especially needed to drive the volunteer shuttle van and to assist in the Emergency Waiting Room. If you have the time and energy to help, please call the Volunteer Department at 745-1164.

Bethesda North opens new 127-bed patient tower

Bethesda North Hospital, a TriHealth hospital in Montgomery, officially opened a new seven-story patient tower during a dedication ceremony held on August 7. The \$150 million project addresses the needs of the rapidly growing northern suburbs of Greater Cincinnati.



With 300,000 square feet of additional patient care space and 127 additional beds, Bethesda North will be able to serve approximately 10,000 more patients annually with its new patient tower. This expansion reflects an increase of more than 40 percent in the hospital's inpatient capacity and prepares Bethesda North to meet the growing population's health care needs for at least the next decade.

The expansion will create approximately 250 new jobs by

the end of June 2008, with more jobs likely as patient volume grows. The new Bethesda North Tower includes an additional 127 private medical-surgical patient rooms with ample family space, visitor couches that convert into beds, DVDs, CD players and wireless Internet access; 32 state-of-the-art replacement ICU rooms; eight new

private postpartum maternity rooms; a new high-tech nursing call system to enhance efficiency and care; an on-site MRI; a new attached parking garage; and a new cafeteria.

Planning for the new tower began in 1999 and ground was broken in May 2005 to expand Bethesda North Hospital for the benefit of current and future generations. Taxpayers have not taken on any of the burden of the \$150 million cost of the new patient tower.

TOP 10 FINISHERS at Championships:

Charlotte Aguilar
Patrick Aguilar
Liz Avery
Hitoshi Baba
Jake Buschelmann
John Buschelmann
Ellie Caldwell
Katie Caldwell
Jake Ciricillo
Maddie Conrad
Sam Conrad
John Driscoll
Jordan Elder
Abby Evans
Sally Evans
Lindsay Fischer
Jack Gawin
Hanna Gottschalk
Shelly Jahn
Maddie Joyce
Alex Lutmer
Kelly Lutmer
Ethan May
Hannah May
Sarah May
Darby Nelson
Delaney Nelson
Gunnar Nelson
Nick Peltz
Mary Beth Reinhold
Drew Schmidlin
Andrew Schrantz
Paul Walden
Matthew Williams
Nathan Williams

Parks & Recreation Programs

HIGHLIGHTS OF OFFERINGS FROM MONTGOMERY PARKS & RECREATION

Register for these and other programs online at www.montgomeryohio.org

HARVEST MOON

Saturday, October 6; 6-9pm
(Swaim Park)
Celebrate the harvest season with free hayrides, \$2 pony rides, music and storytelling around the bon fire, complete with marshmallows to roast. Under the tent, there will be pumpkin painting and cookie decorating and other family activities, like square dancing to celebrate fall and the festiveness of a traditional harvest. Be sure to stop by Chili Fest between 5 and 8pm for a "hot" meal and cold beverage. Enter your favorite recipe to be judged by the fire department before joining us for an evening in the light of the Harvest Moon.



whole brained learning at its best! Create many original cartoons that represent this season. Draw a collection of gourds complete with humorous expressions. And, enjoy drawing a favorite pet in the Korean culture – a Jindo dog – and a variety of spooky characters to help scare our friends and family. *Cost: \$62 for 6-week session (all materials included!)*

BEGINNING ADULT BRIDGE INSTRUCTION

Tuesday & Thursday; Oct. 9-25; 6-8:30 pm (Twin Lakes at Montgomery Activity Center)
Looking for something to do indoors this winter? Start now to learn the game of Bridge. Warren Buffet and Bill Gates both play bridge, which is more than a card game. It teaches logic, reasoning, quick thinking, patience, concentration, and partnership skills. Instructor Bob Veverka is a certified ACBL director and is a board member of the Cincinnati Bridge Association. Sign up online at www.montgomeryohio.org. Space is limited. *Cost: \$70 per 6-week session*

EVERYONE NEEDS A FRIEND

Ages: 3rd & 4th Graders
Monday; Sept 17, 24 & Oct. 1; 4:00-5:30 pm (Annex Building)
This is a non-threatening class using interactive role play and discussions. Student manual includes helpful hints, tips and resources for parents. For more information, visit www.betterbabysitters.com. Topics include: How friends influence our world, Qualities of a good friend, How to be a good listener, The perils of gossip, "I" statements, How to Stop & Think before Acting, How to watch for acts of kindness, and Awareness of verbal & non verbal communication. *Cost: \$42 per 4-week session (minimum of 8, maximum 25 to offer).*

PRESCHOOL DRAWING Young Rembrandt's

Wednesdays; Oct. 3-Nov. 14 (no class 10/31); 4:00-4:45 pm (Annex Building)
Pre-schoolers learn the skills necessary to draw more complex images. As they learn about art and color, children discover the world around them and develop fundamental skills that prepare them as learners. Draw an ice cream sundae, a lion, a spider web and a dress up bear. The drawing helps to refine needed skills for Kindergarten. *Cost: \$62 for 6-week session (all materials included!)*

CARTOON DRAWING Young Rembrandt's

Wednesdays; Oct. 3-Nov. 14 (no class 10/31); 5-6 pm (Annex Building)
The Cartoon Animation method has students sequentially place shapes, lines and a variety of details to create their drawings. The use of these analytical skills, perceptual skills and creativity is

PEEWEE SOCCER

Ages 3-5 years
Tuesday & Thursday; September 11-27; 4:30-5:15 pm (Montgomery Park)

A fun, non-competitive introduction to the basics of soccer.



We'll play learning games like follow the leader, tag, red light/green light and duck, duck goose, while learning some ball handling skills and how to defend the goal. Please bring: shin guards, size 3 ball and water bottle. *Cost: \$20 (minimum of 6, maximum 10 to offer).*

GIDDY UP, PARDNER! Columbus Day Horseback Riding and Cookout

Ages 10-14
Friday, October 8, 9 am-5 pm (Meet at Swaim Park Lodge lower level parking lot to head to Salt Creek Ranch)



We'll saddle up and head out on a 2-hour ride, then rope it on in and have an old-fashioned

wiener roast over the roaring bonfire provided by the staff at Salt Creek Ranch Saddle Barn. Wear Jeans and sneakers (no riders will be permitted to ride in flip flops!). Bring snack and drink. Transportation on Sycamore School bus. Register online at www.montgomeryohio.org by October 3. *Cost: \$45*

KICK IT UP A NOTCH W/ TAEKWONDO

All Ages
Monday & Wednesday; Ongoing; 6:30-7:30 pm or 7:30-8:30 pm (Annex Building)
Emphasis is placed on self-defense, kicking, stretching and promotion to the next belt. This is a year-round course for all ages interested in Taekwondo Korean Karate. *Cost: \$35R/\$40NR per month.*

Doggie Day at the pool

Join us on Monday, September 3, for Doggie Day at the pool. Dogs of all breeds and sizes are invited to go for an end-of-summer dip at the Montgomery Community Pool from 5-8 p.m. before the pool closes for the year. Dogs must be people friendly and non-aggressive and — of course — a swimmer or some sort. Pets of members are free and guests with pooches are \$3..



Classic to end movie series

The final outdoor vintage movie of the season will feature the hilarious classic *Ghostbusters* on September 7 in Weller Park. The movie, presented without cost to guests, will begin at dusk, which will be about 8 p.m. Bring lawn chair or blanket. Concessions sold on site.



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ALL AROUND TOWN...

Fall Plant Swap set for September 29

The Beautification and Tree Commission will host its ninth Fall Plant Swap on Saturday, September 29, from 9-11 a.m. in the City Hall parking lot. The event provides an excellent opportunity for community members to share their divided perennials while obtaining new varieties.

The Commission recommends that the perennials be labeled with the plant name and its sun or shade preference for the display tables.

Participants should also come prepared with bags or containers to transport new samples.

Join your neighbors at this free event. Share perennials as well as

garden tidbits of information. For more information, call 792-8329.

International Reception planned October 7

Community members whose homeland is other than the United States are invited to attend Montgomery's International Reception sponsored by the Sister Cities Commission.

The annual social event is scheduled for Sunday, October 7, from 4-7 p.m. at Terwilliger Lodge in Dulle Park.

Participants should bring a favorite covered dish, appetizer or dessert regarded as traditional fare of their native country. Ethnic attire and/or entertainment shared by

the international guests (musical instruments, dancing, etc.) are always welcome.

To make your reservation to attend this event, or to suggest a community member

who would appreciate an invitation, please contact City Hall (891-2424).

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

SEPTEMBER • SEPTEMBER • SEPTEMBER

3	Labor Day Concert	Blue Ash Town Square	6 pm
3	Labor Day/City Offices Closed		
3	Montgomery City Pool Closes		
5	Council Business Session	City Hall	7 pm
7	Vintage Movie Night	Weller Park	Dusk/8 pm
10	Beautification Comm.	City Hall	9 am
10	Planning Commission	City Hall	7:30 pm
10	Arts Commission	City Hall	5 pm
11	Environmental Advisory Group	City Hall	4:30 pm
12	Landmarks Commission	City Hall	7pm
15	Cardboard Recycling	7315 Cornell Road	10 am - 1 pm
16	Kiwanis Art Show	Downtown Montgomery	12-5 pm
18	Sister Cities Commission	City Hall	7 pm
19	Council Work Session	City Hall	7 pm
20	Parks & Recreation Commission	City Hall	6:30 pm
24	Planning Commission	City Hall	7:30 pm
25	Board of Zoning Appeals	City Hall	7:30 pm
29	Fall Plant Swap	City Hall Parking Lot	9-11 am