



# Montgomery Bulletin

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

www.MontgomeryOhio.org

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE CITY OF MONTGOMERY

February 2008

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*Tickets selling fast for popular event*

## Sensory Sundays returns February 17

Limited tickets remain for Sensory Sundays, the popular three-part series planned at

Hear Jazz



Terwilliger Lodge on the Sundays of February 17, March 2 and March 16. Each offering will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Taste Treats



A delightful collage for your senses, this event caters to your sight with a variety of art displays, your hearing with talented and soulful sounds of

See Stuff



stand-out area musicians and your taste with specialty samplers from local chefs.

Look for more information at [www.montgomeryohio.org](http://www.montgomeryohio.org) and in the Sensory Sunday brochure mailed to each Montgomery household.

SUNDAY	Hear Jazz	Taste Treats	See Stuff
FEBRUARY 17	<b>The Medicine Men</b> (blues and jazz music and vocals)	<b>Wild Bill's Restaurant</b> (Cajun cuisine from a Lebanon favorite)	<b>Tim Parsley</b> (Portrait Sketches) <b>Emily Caito</b> (Bronze Sculpture)
MARCH 2	<b>Buffalo Ridge Jazz Band</b> (Dixieland jazz)	<b>Hugo's Restaurant</b> (Oakley restaurant with southern sophisticated cuisine)	<b>Rebecca Nebert</b> (Collage) <b>Lisa Molineux</b> (Landscape Artist/Playhouse in the Park Scenemaker)
MARCH 16	<b>Sylvain Acher &amp; Friends</b> (eclectic French jazz)	<b>Jean Robert Restaurant Group</b> (award-winning ethnic cuisine)	<b>Bruno and Anna Zabaglio</b> (Artistic Portraits and Paintings)

Tickets are limited to 90 guests and are \$75 for the series. Single event tickets are \$28. To purchase tickets, stop by Montgomery City Hall or visit the City's website at [www.montgomeryohio.org](http://www.montgomeryohio.org).

Past Sensory Sundays series have proven quite popular, so plan to purchase tickets soon while they are still available.

## Can you help?

Volunteers are needed to assist with the February 17, Sensory Sundays event. Tasks include serving and removing the food samplings and pouring wine. Volunteers will have an opportunity to experience the jazz, cuisine and art formats while paying only half price (\$14) for their ticket. Call 792-8348 to sign up or for more information.

## Jim Hanson named Montgomery Finance Director

Jim Hanson has been selected as Montgomery's new Finance Director. Jim comes to Montgomery from the City of Hamilton, where he served as Finance Director since 2006.



Jim Hanson

Prior to his position with Hamilton, Jim was the Finance Director for the City of Fairfield for 26 years, where that community

experienced significant growth. Early in his career, Jim was employed by the State Auditor's office for two years.

Jim's first day with the City will be January 28. As Finance Director, Jim will be responsible for

overseeing Montgomery's \$35 million operating and capital budget.

Jim has a Master of Business Administration degree from Xavier University and a Bachelors degree in Economics from Miami University. He is a certified public accountant and a Certified Government Financial Manager through the Association of Government Accountants.

Jim and his wife Linda reside in Liberty Township. They have three grown daughters.

# Regarding the City's Parks Study



This month's message by Vice Mayor Ken Suer

After looking over the recently issued City of Montgomery Parks and Recreation Study I have several thoughts to share with readers regarding the report. First of all I think it was necessary to take an in-depth look at our park system after the dog park debate raised numerous questions as to how our parks are used, what they currently offer and what they could potentially offer. Bringing in a consultant who has worked with many cities on their park systems has enabled us to get a number of fresh perspectives and has generated a considerable amount of innovative thinking.

The consultant gathered a lot of information while speaking with residents, representatives of sports teams and leagues, city staff, council and other

interested parties. A wide range of ideas emerged — some are smaller in scale, others are “big ticket” items. I am pretty certain that we can do some “tweaking” of the park system that will improve what we already have in place — larger scale ideas would be harder to implement due to cost but these still merit some thought and discussion.

If certain ideas are judged to be worth pursuing, a first step may be to see if any money can be raised through grants, sponsorships or philanthropic gifts. Other items could possibly be worked into the City's budget over a number of years.

What were some of the ideas in the study that caught my attention? I think there was quite a bit of interest in upgrading the condition of the ballfields and I would consider that idea as probably doable. Installing some plants, shrubs and/or trees in certain spots for buffering purposes might be a good idea. There has been a lot of interest

expressed in heating the pool and in heating park restrooms during the winter and some intriguing solar and geothermal concepts were put forth in that regard. ( This could be even more intriguing if we could get some type of environmental grant money.) These are just some of my own personal opinions at this stage.

One thing is very clear to me — our park system is very good as it stands today. Can it be improved? Yes — most things can. Constructive and responsible change can keep our City dynamic and competitive. The Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council will have to scrutinize all of the ideas very closely and with the help of resident input, decide what is affordable, what can be done and what should be done. By continuing to look for ways to improve, Montgomery will remain a premiere city in which to live, work and play.

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



## What to do when the power goes off

When a power outage occurs, the following information will assist to restore power. Call Cinergy at 651-4182 to report electrical outages and 651-4466 to report gas service disruptions. During a storm, hundreds of customers may be calling, so if you get a busy signal, please try again. When possible, turn off or disconnect appliances that will go on automatically when power is restored, including furnaces, electric water heaters, refrigerators, washing machines and television sets. That way, when service is restored, there will be less chance of a circuit overload.

If you see a fallen electrical wire, assume it is “live”, stay away from it and notify Cinergy immediately.

If you use a portable generator system during an outage, it should have a transfer switch to prevent feedback into Cinergy's lines. The switch protects repair crews from injury by your power supply. It also prevents damage to your generator when utility power is restored.

## COUNCIL CORNER

Montgomery City Council will meet in its regular monthly business session on February 6 at the City Hall. Meetings begin at 7 p.m., with public comment welcomed on each item before Council.

### NEW LEGISLATION

- An ordinance amending schedule of municipal compensation and declaring an emergency
- A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Cincinnati Pool Management, Inc. for professional services related to the operation and management of the Montgomery Municipal Pool

## Recent Council Action

### JANUARY 2 BUSINESS SESSION

- A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with CDS Associates, Inc. for professional services related to general engineering and architectural services (passed 6-0)
- A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Ray Kingsbury for professional services related to communications, public relations, and citizen outreach (passed 6-0)
- A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Statewide Ford for the purchase of two police cruisers (passed 6-0)
- A resolution accepting a bid and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Lithko Restoration Technologies for the re-painting of the municipal swimming pool (passed 6-0)

# Outreach seeks connection with citizens, business

The City initiated a comprehensive communications outreach program in 2007 to benefit the citizens of Montgomery. The goal of this broad-based outreach campaign is the increased engagement and participation of residents in an effort to develop true citizenship. Long-term successes for the community will result from this strategically planned and implemented initiative.

The four areas of focus in 2007 included the completion of a city-wide communications evaluation with a best practice recommendation, the coordination of HOMEARAMA 2007 communications, the development and coordination of a community-wide civic outreach campaign and the development of a business outreach campaign.

## Communications Evaluation

The first major initiative to be completed was the communications evaluation. The objective of this evaluation was to thoroughly examine the manner in which Montgomery was communicating with its residents and to take steps to make that communication better.

In order to provide easily recognizable information to the citizens of Montgomery, a standardized look for all City communication material was created. This new logo, format and color scheme has been applied to all letterhead, cards, e-mails, fliers, brochures, the City web site and other communication mediums.

Since excellence in customer service is a City priority,



Montgomery evaluated the manner in which its employees answer and conduct themselves on the phone. The evaluation resulted in recommendations which have been adopted in the form of standardized, customer service oriented phone protocols that ensure a professional and helpful response to citizen inquiries.

## HOMEARAMA Communications

The second major initiative was the communication surrounding the 2007 HOMEARAMA. The City needed to effectively communicate the complexities of the 2007 HOMEARAMA event that was to be located in Montgomery.

While the event's location in Montgomery was a significant honor for the community, a host of potential problems could have arisen if the event was not properly communicated to the residents. All audiences received effective communication that allowed the event to succeed without incident.

## Civic Outreach

The third initiative was the development and coordination of a community-wide civic outreach campaign. This process has been coordinated by Ray Kingsbury, who was contracted as Director of Citizen

Engagement for the City of Montgomery. The civic outreach campaign has included focus groups with new residents and community organizations to uncover possibilities for positive community-wide collaboration.

From this effort, the City will introduce a new resident packet early in 2008. The effort has also included the development of the first-ever Montgomery Citizens' Leadership Academy, which was launched on January 10 with the groups first session.

## Business Outreach

The fourth initiative is the development of a business outreach campaign, which will be further developed and implemented in 2008. This campaign will provide useful information in a variety of mediums to existing and potential Montgomery businesses.

Additional communication efforts in 2008 will include the development of a comprehensive crisis communications plan, as well as the establishment of effective two-way communication between the citizens of Montgomery and the municipal government that serves them.

## City reviews sign ordinance

The City is reviewing regulations pertaining to sandwich board signs, temporary signs, and window signs for business identification. The Planning Commission recently reviewed recommendations from City staff which would allow limited amounts of window signage and

also 'hand decorated' signs.

The Commission will make recommendations to City Council this month. If you would like information on the proposed changes, contact Frank Davis or Tracy Roblero in the Community and Development office.

## Homeland Security grant provides surveillance gear

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has approved the police department's grant request for specialized surveillance equipment. After identifying a need in early 2007, Sergeant John Crowell applied for a covert video surveillance system through the federal government's commercial equipment program.

The grant provides all equipment, travel expenses and training costs associated with using the high tech equipment. The grant total, including

training costs, will exceed \$12,000, paid entirely by federal funding. As a result, the City of Montgomery was not required to utilize any local funding.

This system greatly expands the department's ability to address such issues as after hours vandalism in the various City parks and also provides the ability to temporarily install a video surveillance system at City events, such as Bastille Day, Harvest Moon or any occasion where security is enhanced through the benefit from video surveillance.

# Photo Contest and Photography Master Class offered

All photographers are encouraged to focus their attention on Montgomery's 21st Photo Competition, sponsored by the Arts Commission. The contest is open to students and adults. This year's Reception and Exhibit are scheduled for Sunday, March 16, from 1 - 4 p.m. in the Universalist Church on the southwest corner of Montgomery & Remington Roads.



City's website at [www.MontgomeryOhio.org](http://www.MontgomeryOhio.org).

Corson Hirschfeld, nationally published and exhibited photographer, will jury all qualifying entries. Winners will receive monetary awards for their creative work. The deadline to enter the Photo

Competition is Friday, March 7.

In addition to the Photo Competition, the Arts Commission is also sponsoring a "Master Class for Amateur Photographers," featuring the judge of the photo competition. Corson will discuss various aspects of creating a good photograph (for digital or film mediums) by reviewing prints submitted by the class participants.

This new event is scheduled for Saturday, March 15, from 12:30 - 4 p.m. at Swaim Lodge, located on the corner of Cooper & Zig Zag Roads. The class fee schedule is \$35 for Montgomery residents (\$45

non-residents and \$25 for full time students).

The class will be limited to 15 participants. Each participant will be limited to a maximum of three prints to be exhibited to the entire class. For specific information about the workshop or to obtain a registration form after February 10, visit [www.MontgomeryOhio.org](http://www.MontgomeryOhio.org) or call 792-8329.

The two photography events detailed above are independent of each other. Photographers can participate in either or both events. However, photos brought to the photography class cannot be entered in the current or future Montgomery Photo Competitions.

# Bike show, swap meet to prep for July bike event

More than 300 participants of all skill levels helped ensure the success of the inaugural 2007 Tour De Montgomery, sponsored jointly by the City of Montgomery and the HeartStone



Foundation. In addition to the hundreds of advanced, novice and family riders, hundreds of

people purchased raffle tickets, which helped meet the event's philanthropic goal of raising



funds to help a local cancer patient address her mounting medical bills.

preparing for the Tour De Montgomery.

In addition to Tour De Montgomery information, participants will also find helpful information on a

variety of topics. Booths will include:

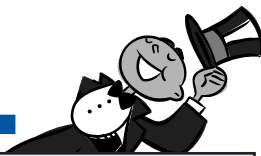
- *Dietitians and nutritionists on how to maintain your proper calories*
- *A bike mechanic to help with bike related issues*
- *A physical therapist to demonstrate proper position and stretching*
- *Local riding clubs to provide information and registrations for rides*

The overwhelming success of last year's effort has ensured a return of the event in July. As a precursor of the summer event, a Bicycle Swap Meet and Classic Bike Show is being planned for March 1 at the Annex Building, 10115 Montgomery Road. Hosted by the City of Montgomery from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the swap meet and bike show will provide a forum where cyclists can trade not only bicycles, but anything bicycle-related.

The March 1 event will also feature booths with related information on cycling and

Call or email Gary Gross at [gary.gross@fuse.net](mailto:gary.gross@fuse.net) or call 891-6454 to sign up for a booth related to cycling.

# Hats Off...



to the team of volunteers that assisted with the Holiday Decorating Take Down Project on January 4. While 18 volunteers worked on the actual "take down," 17 others worked at the Annex Building to sort and inventory hundreds of wreaths and garlands. The entire project, "preparation workshops, decorating day, take down day and individual time expended by the Project Chairs," totaled 428 volunteer hours that equate to a monetary value of \$8,033.

A gigantic and grateful "thank you" is extended to each and every one of the project volunteers that contributed their time and energy to help create the wonderful holiday ambience in our Heritage District.

# BAMSO, Chorus join for Valentine treat

This year's Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Orchestra's Valentine Concert will be presented at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 10345 Montgomery Road, on Sunday, February 10. The location and time have been changed from those previously announced. The concert will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The Orchestra will play a lively program with selections from Bizet's *Carmen* and *Capriccio Espagnol* by Rimsky-Korsakov. Pianists Hunter Wade and Jae Won Kim are sure to charm the crowd playing Beethoven and Rachmaninoff. Hunter, a winner of the 2007 Young Artist Competition, will make his debut with the Orchestra playing the first movement of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major. He performed at Carnegie Hall in New York in September, 2007



as the Silver Medalist winner in both level 9 solo and concerto events in the World Piano Competition. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in September 2006, at the age of 12. Jae Won Kim, 25, a native of South Korea, is a student of Michael Chertock at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

The Southern Gateway Chorus will join in the performance of

the second half of the concert. The unique combination of

classic instruments and vocal performance will include songs from *West Side Story* and *South Pacific*, among other selections. For 52 years, Southern Gateway Chorus has been providing harmony, tradition and excellence throughout Greater Cincinnati.

The concert is free and open to the public thanks to the support provided by the City of Montgomery, the City of Blue Ash, the Fine Arts Fund, and the Ohio Arts Council, as well as that of individual contributors.

## Come "Bloom" with the Beautification & Tree Commission

A vacancy currently exists on this highly visible commission that meets the second Monday of each month at 9 a.m. in City Hall. The volunteer team works on a variety of "hands on" projects throughout the year with additional community members providing an abundance of helping hands.



planting, Arbor Day tree seedling distribution, children's marigold project, Beautification Awards' recognition and the holiday decorating project.

Projects include the spring and fall plant swaps, median flower selections, hanging basket

meet the dedicated members of this team.

Call Joyce Yock at 792-8329 if you would like to be a guest at the February 11 meeting. In addition to learning more about the commission's annual projects, you'll have the opportunity to

## Arts Commission, BAMSO participate in Macy's Arts Sampler Weekend

In a collaborative effort, Montgomery's Art Commission and the Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Orchestra have been accepted as participants in the 2008 Arts Sampler Weekend sponsored by Macy's.

The Arts Commission will showcase the City's 17-piece, Ansel Adams collection of original photographs, a gift to the City by an anonymous donor in 1985 and chamber music will be provided by

members of the Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Orchestra.



Scheduled for Sunday, February 10, from 2 - 4 p.m. in City Council Chambers at 10101 Montgomery Road, the event is free and open to the public.

The Arts Sampler Weekend features more than 100 free events at 20 Cincinnati area locations. Visit [www.fineartsfund.org](http://www.fineartsfund.org) for a detailed schedule of events.

## February Volunteer Opportunities

- **Service Dept. Recycling Project**  
Saturday, February 16
- **School's Out Trip Chaperones**  
*See article on page 11*  
Monday, February 18
- **Sensory Sundays Assistants**  
*See article on front page*  
Sunday, February 17

For more specific information about any of these short term or flexible scheduling projects, contact Joyce Yock (792-8329).



# Freecycle: One great idea!

When a family moved from Blue Ash to Montgomery, they did some decluttering at the old house and remodeling at the new one. They had a lot of usable things that were too good to throw away and not accepted at a donation center. They posted the items — a cedar swing set, an entire house's worth of Pella windows, a portable gazebo, a bedroom set — on Freecycle, a sort of online, free yard sale. One by one they gave each of the items to someone living nearby who could use them.

oven original to the house in good working condition, but did not fit into her need for a double oven. Rather than toss it on top of "Mount Rumpke," she posted it to Freecycle. Two days later a Madeira family picked up the oven to replace their nonworking one.



The rules of Freecycle are simple: everything must be free, legal and appropriate for all ages. Members join a local email group to respond to one another's posts by private email. They make arrangements for the exchange of the items. The beauty of using email is

The Freecycle concept spread from Arizona. Groups are local. The exchanges are made between people who live near one another. The concept has now grown to nearly 4,000 groups and more than 4 million members worldwide.

CinciEast, the local Freecycle group, currently serves around 3,500 members in the eastern suburbs. Membership is free.

Another Montgomery resident remodeled her kitchen recently. The homeowner had a Jenn-Air

None of the exchanges involved any money and were offered without cost to the new owners.

that you can describe the condition. A non-working lawnmower might be garbage to one person, but easily fixable to another.

Because group emails are distributed by Yahoo groups, moderators prevent solicitations and other abuses. Once a member, you can choose whether to receive the posts as individual emails or in digest form. People who are members find it a great way to both give and receive.

## Second EAB workshop planned

Due to the overwhelming interest and response to the first workshop on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), a second workshop has been scheduled for Wednesday evening, February 20. Sponsored by the Beautification & Tree Commission and the City of Wyoming, the program will be held in Terwilliger Lodge,



10530 Deerfield Road, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The informative workshop will feature Joe Boggs of the Ohio State University Hamilton County Extension Service and Terry Willenbrink, City Arborist for Montgomery.

The presentation will include facts about the EAB, City preparations for the inevitable destruction from the EAB invasion, and

suggestions for possible tree protection methods.

Specific questions will also be accepted and addressed at this free, public forum.

For more information, or to join, visit [freecycle.org](http://freecycle.org). The Freecycle program is endorsed by the Montgomery Environmental Advisory Commission.

## Park Study progresses to subcommittee review

The Parks and Recreation Commission, in its December meeting, reviewed the overall Parks Study compiled by Leisure Services Management, Inc. The report was then referred for a more detailed review by a subcommittee being formed.

The subcommittee will be comprised of three members from the Parks and Recreation Commission, three members of City Council and three members of related City staff from Public Works and Recreation.

The goal of the subcommittee is to evaluate the recommendations within the Parks Study, then develop a recommendation for

comment by the Parks and Recreation Commission and for City Council's Parks and Recreation Committee.

The subcommittee reviewing the Parks Study is expected to complete its work by the end of April 2008. The timeline would allow for researching and budgeting support of the recommended projects.

All of meetings concerning the Parks Study are posted on the City's website and are open to the public.

The recommendations and any subsequent action are intended to further add value to the quality of life in Montgomery.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Montgomery Road used to be a toll road? It went from the area that today is downtown Cincinnati to Columbus. It is thought to have opened as early as 1824. Charles Dickens wrote about his travels through Cincinnati and "the town about 13 miles from Cincinnati" (*which would be Montgomery*) in his *American Notes* book. He called the toll road a 'rare blessing.' The 13-mile tollhouse, which was built in 1836, was on Montgomery Road right across from where Chester's Roadhouse used to be. There were other tollhouses built on intersections of Montgomery Road and Kenwood Road, Plainfield and Montgomery, Hopewell and Montgomery and Mason and Montgomery. Rates for using the toll road were two cents per mile for a horse rig and three cents per mile for a team and wagon. Pedestrians were charged one cent to use the toll road as well.

# Do you treat your best friend like a dog?

Dog ownership is a responsibility that involves more than providing an animal with food and shelter. A dog owner should be proactively committed to offering obedience training, socialization, physical exercise medical/veterinary care and companionship for their dog.

In 2007, the Montgomery Police Department responded to more than 175 calls about dogs. You can be a good pet owner and neighbor by using common sense and following some simple rules.

**Nuisance Barking:** Not everyone loves your dog as much as you, especially when it involves barking. Be thoughtful of neighbors when leaving your dog outdoors. You may not notice the barking, but your neighbors do. Dogs crave your attention and affection and can become bored when left alone in the yard. The police will investigate calls for nuisance barking and take appropriate enforcement action which may include citation and/or fine.

**Containment:** It is also essential that you keep your dog on your property. Fences and leashes keep dogs safe. Unconfined dogs and unleashed dogs account for a number of dog bite incidents each year. An unconfined dog – or a dog that ‘breaks through’ an invisible fence can attack other dogs and/or bite people. Only a family member that is capable of controlling your dog should be allowed to walk the animal on a leash.

**License Required:** By law, your dog must be licensed each year—even if the animal never leaves your yard. The law also requires that a valid dog license be displayed on your animal’s collar. Dog license applications and information can be obtained from the Hamilton County Auditor’s Office by calling 946-4106.

**Dog Waste:** By law you are required to clean up after your dog – this means cleaning in your own yard, in public areas,



and on private property. When walking your dog, please remember to carry a plastic bag to pick up feces. The City of Montgomery has placed “mutt mitt” bags in all city parks for your added convenience.

**Vaccinations:** Please keep your dog’s vaccinations current. The

health of your best friend is at stake. A veterinarian recommended schedule of vaccinations will help keep your dog disease free and protected from rabid wild animals. Any person bitten or scratched by a dog must file a report with the Hamilton County General Health District’s rabies line at 946-7846. Ohio law requires that a dog be quarantined for at least 10 days following a (human) bite report. The quarantine period will limit your dog’s exposure to other animals and human beings. The health district will require you to produce rabies vaccination records for your dog as part of an official investigation.

**Call The Police:** If you, a family member or your family dog is bitten by another dog, contact the police so the incident can be investigated and a dog bite report can be filed.

**Please be your dog’s best friend by being a responsible pet owner.**

## The Universalist Church could have been a gas station...

As many residents know, the City of Montgomery was founded in 1795 by a small group of settlers from Montgomery, New York. The town grew slowly until after World War II when subdivisions began to spring up and the population swelled to near its current level.

During the growth years of the 1960s and 1970s, a number of the early downtown buildings were demolished to make way for new businesses. In 1976, alarmed at the loss of the City’s historic past, City Council enacted legislation which provided protection for sites with architectural and historical significance. The Landmarks Commission was



established to recommend properties for designation and then oversee the ordinance protecting these treasures of our past.

Since 1976, 31 buildings and two unique sites (*Hopewell Cemetery and Johnson Nature Preserve*) have been designated as Montgomery Landmarks. Most of these buildings are located around downtown, where the first settlement began.

New buildings in the downtown Heritage District are required to be built to be complementary to the simple and classic design of these existing structures. The City has invested millions of dollars over the years to provide public improvements which

complement the historic character and enhance the visual appearance of the district.

Today, Montgomery’s Heritage District is the pride of residents and the envy of other communities. The emphasis on natural materials and classic styles has created a theme that provides both economic and aesthetic benefits to the businesses and the community as a whole. Few can even imagine Montgomery without the Universalist Church. It very nearly became a gas station!

Many residents do not take the rich history of Montgomery for granted. Learn more about our Landmark Buildings by visiting the City’s website or contacting the Community Development Department.

# “Green” house coming to Vintage Club

The Vintage Club, the new mixed use neighborhood being developed by Great Traditions between Montgomery Road and Weller Park, will be the site of the first inaugural Cincinnati Magazine “Design Home 2008.” A collaboration of Great Traditions Homes and the magazine, this unique house will serve as an “idea home” that will explore progressive trends in building, including the Green building movement.

The house will seek “silver” accreditation under the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), according to Doug Hinger, President of Great Traditions Homes. Site design features will include use of indigenous plants and permeable concrete to reduce water runoff, while the house will feature Energy Star



Appliances, the use of local building products, and installation of a geothermal system to reduce the use of energy for heating and cooling. Hoffman and Albers Interiors is responsible for the interior design.

The house is scheduled for completion in September, at

which time a preview party will be held. Public tours will be available through the middle of October. Proceeds from these events will benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Southern Ohio Chapter.

The house will be featured in a special section of the October

issue of Cincinnati Magazine.

The Design House 2008 will continue the emphasis on unique, high quality residential living that the Vintage Club is developing and will be a welcome addition to continuing a level of excellence that Montgomery’s neighborhoods provide.

## 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**

## Downtown gets “smart” crosswalks

Two new crosswalk warning systems were recently installed in the Heritage District along Montgomery Road at Ted Gregory Lane and on Main Street south of Ted Gregory Lane. This “smart” crosswalk warning system includes yellow flashing lights in the pavement to alert motorists — and remind pedestrians — to be extra cautious.

The activated crosswalk warning light system provides a clear message to motorists that the warning system has detected the presence of a pedestrian in the crosswalk. This is especially important since

pedestrians in the crosswalks may not be clearly visible to all motorists due to stopped, slowed or oncoming traffic. These “in-roadway” lights are energy efficient, but very bright LED lights that extend across the entire width of the roadway.

The crosswalk warning lights are activated only after pedestrians pass between a passive detection and activation system. The pedestrian’s action of passing through an undetectable

light beam activates the crosswalk warning system lights for approximately 20 seconds allowing motorists and pedestrians to react and respond safely.

As is the case with new installations or changes to the City’s infrastructure system, use and effectiveness of the new crosswalk systems will be monitored to determine how well this warning system is working to improve safety for motorists and pedestrians.

*For additional information on this system, contact Public Works Director Bob Nikula at 792-8311 or at [bnikula@ci.montgomery.oh.us](mailto:bnikula@ci.montgomery.oh.us).*

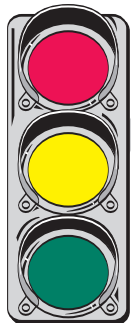


## Keeping traffic flowing smoothly

# Weekly checks made of downtown signals

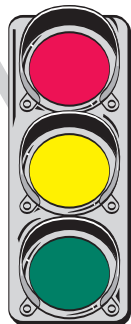
During resident surveys — and in everyday conversations — one topic frequently discussed is traffic congestion, particularly along Montgomery Road and throughout the Heritage District.

A major factor in providing for good traffic progression and minimizing congestion for motorists utilizing the Montgomery Road corridor and intersecting side streets is an orderly and well defined combination of regulatory signs at minor intersecting streets, as well as traffic signals located at major intersections.



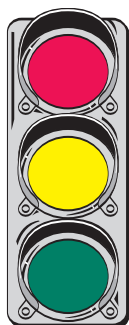
Major intersections along Montgomery Road and in the Heritage District include traffic signals that are connected into “closed loop” operating systems that are integrated. The system is controlled by several types of sensors, hardware and computer software components.

Each component of the City’s closed loop system has a specific purpose and, as is the case with any operating system, the proper maintenance of all components is critical if the system is expected to operate at optimum effectiveness. The failure or malfunctioning of any component in the closed loop signal system has the potential



to adversely impact other parts — if not all — the signals in the system. The result is a major disruption for traffic movement throughout the community.

Recognizing the potential of component failures, the City has undertaken weekly checks of the closed loop system since 2005 to ensure that the traffic signal system is properly programmed to safely and efficiently coordinate the movement of traffic. With traffic volumes



exceeding 25,000 vehicles per day along parts of the Montgomery Road corridor, properly functioning traffic signals are proactively inspected and maintained. The weekly checks have become a critical element of the City’s efforts to improve traffic progression and reduce congestion within and throughout the community.

*For additional information on this system please contact Public Works Director Bob Nikula at 792-8311 or at [bnikula@ci.montgomery.oh.us](mailto:bnikula@ci.montgomery.oh.us).*

## Thanks to Montgomery employees and a compassionate community

During the holiday season, City employees used a number of opportunities to donate to worthy causes to brighten the holidays for the needy.

Employees participated in the TV 5 Cares Coat Drive by organizing a collection point for the community to drop off coats. Through their efforts, 245 coats were collected and given to St. Vincent de Paul through this program.

Employees collected 736 cans of food and donated them to the Free Store Food Bank, which is the equivalent to feeding 21 families for one week (5

families for a month.)

Employees worked on a number of programs throughout the year, such as Breakfast With Santa, with proceeds going to the Christmas Family Fund. These programs raised \$2,200 which purchased Christmas presents for two needy families, a group home and a local orphanage.



These actions reflect an attitude of gratitude that the employees have as they appreciate the blessings they have received in their lives. Their efforts were greatly supported by a caring community!

## Yard waste pick-ups to resume

Winter’s cold may have made its mark on Montgomery for a short while, but one thing is for sure: spring is coming. With it comes plenty of yard work. To help with those outside clean-up needs, weekly yard waste collections will resume — at no charge — starting March 3 for all one and two family residential homes who have regular trash service through the City’s contract.

Residents may place up to three bags, cans or bundles curbside for pick-up, or one 90 gallon yard waste toter. Additional bags, cans or bundles require one \$1.50 Rumpke Waste Sticker per item. Additional 90 gallon toters will require three stickers each.

Stickers are available at Montgomery Kroger or Montgomery City Hall during regular business hours.

### Yardwaste Guidelines:

- Up to three bags, cans or bundles per household, or one 90-gallon toter (*Additional items require a sticker. Additional toters require three stickers*)
- Loosely place yard waste in trash cans labeled “yardwaste” or in paper yard waste bags, which are available at grocery or hardware stores.
- Place yard waste on the opposite side of your driveway from regular trash. Leave the lids off cans so the yardwaste is clearly visible. Plastic bags will not be accepted.
- Brush should be bundled in sizes up to four feet in length and two feet in diameter. The bundles should be fastened with cotton twine.

# Something to warm your winter blues

If your summer plans include a cool water lineup for family fun, then you need to sign-up for your Montgomery City pool membership starting on March 17. Pool memberships go on sale with a limited number of non-resident passes available. Early registration entitles you to five free visits to use to bring guests and friends to the pool; a \$35 value (Each free visit to be recorded at the pool as you use them.) If you sign-up online before May 1, you receive an additional 5 free visits!

The Montgomery Pool features many benefits, including an



onsite basketball court, rental gazebo for family gatherings or summer celebrations, more healthy choices at the concessions, monthly special events for the family, a water slide, kiddie pool, zero-depth entry and diving boards. Add to that swim lessons, water aerobics, swim team and professional staffing and you have a great all-around family fun spot for the hot summer season.

The pool is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day from 11 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. daily, with the exception of the few days while the Sycamore schools are still in session. On those days, the pool is open 3 - 8 p.m.

## POOL MEMBERSHIPS

	Resident	Business	Non-Res
<b>Family</b>	<b>\$245</b>	<b>\$295</b>	<b>\$445</b>
<b>Singles</b>	<b>\$125</b>	<b>\$145</b>	<b>\$205</b>
<b>Seniors</b> <small>60 &amp; OVER</small>	<b>\$90</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$125</b>
<b>Resident Couple: . . . .</b>	<b>\$180</b>		
<b>Resident Family plus Childcare Provider: . . .</b>	<b>\$340</b>		

(PROVIDER MUST BE AT LEAST THREE YEARS OLDER THAN OLDEST CHILD)

The pool is available for private evening rentals, such as family reunions, birthdays and graduation parties. Rental includes two hours of private use of the pool, life guard staffing and use of facility

amenities such as grills, gazebo, courts and slide. Information is available by visiting [www.montgomeryohio.org](http://www.montgomeryohio.org)

Swim lesson open registration will begin May 5 for pool members (*May 19 for non-members*). Details on times, lesson level swim requirements and session dates will be published in the April *Bulletin* and will be available on the City's website in March.

## Make a Splash on the Makos Swim Team

Swim team registrations begin on March 17 for returning members and then open to general registration to all pool members beginning March 31. A maximum of 30 kids per age division will be selected for the 2008 Montgomery Makos Swim Team. Cost is \$95 for the first swimmer and \$75 for additional swimmers in the family. The swim team is a member of the Tri-County Swim League and will be participating in 6-7 season meets, local swim invitationals and league championships at Miami University at the end of July. The Montgomery Makos focuses on individual skill development, teamwork and summer fun.

A parents informational meeting will be held in April. Summer practices run from 8:30 - 11 a.m. for one hour sessions dependent on age and skills. Practices run June 4 to July 25 starting with Meet the Coaches nights to welcome all team members and assess swimming abilities. The dates of the meets will be announced in early April. For information about the swim team, call City Hall at 891-2424. A parent's packet and detailed schedule will be available by visiting the City's website at [www.montgomeryohio.org](http://www.montgomeryohio.org) in March.

## Heating considered for City pool

Over the years, surveys of pool patrons have indicated an interest in heating the Montgomery Community Pool. The City has taken this feedback into consideration in researching the option to heat the pool and has opted to explore the possibility of using solar heating as an environmentally and economically viable option.

The solar heating option has been discussed with Heliocol, an experienced company interested in the application of its solar technology to the pool. Solar heating is not a typical solution used in climates that have freezing temperatures, a challenge to the City and Heliocol to engineer creative solutions.

Conventional systems for heating pools could be costly, given Montgomery's current pump system. The system was not built to accommodate this extra process, so major building and piping alterations would be required should a conventional heating option be pursued. The initial cost, plus the ongoing increase in utility and chemical costs of the conventional heating system, makes solar

heating a viable alternative.

The installation of either system would require an increase in pool user fees to offset the costs. Initial numbers suggest that the piped solar heating option, if feasible in the winter climate and sustainable by the existing roof structure of the pool house, is a much more reasonable cost.

The concept of heating the pool is included in the new Parks Study for additional investigation. As this study is reviewed by the established subcommittee, the concept of solar heating will be further evaluated. As actual costs are projected, 2008 pool members will be provided with specific information for consideration and feedback. By then, engineers will have determined if the structure of the building makes it an option for solar heating and if alternative funding sources might offset installation and operational costs.

The overall goal is to have a final recommendation and supporting documents in place to consider implementation in 2009.

# Parks & Recreation Programs

HIGHLIGHTS OF OFFERINGS FROM MONTGOMERY PARKS & RECREATION

Register for these and other programs online at [www.montgomeryohio.org](http://www.montgomeryohio.org)

## KICK IT UP A NOTCH TAEKWONDO LESSONS

**Mondays & Wednesdays;**  
**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. Try something new in 2008! Teacher works with each individual to advance their skills at a pace that is challenging and comfortable.

Register at the class or at City Hall. Cost: \$35R/\$40NR per month



## YOUTH DRAWING CLASS

**Ages 6 to 13**  
**Wednesdays; January 30 to**  
**March 5 (16 classes); 5-6 pm;**  
**Annex Building**

This winter we begin with many engaging lessons focusing on the familiar and possibly new things. We will learn about Korean palaces full of detail and history. Then, we create our own, original birthday cake, full of candles and many layers.



Amidst the winter snow season, our artists think of a warmer climate as we draw a complex perspective scene with palm trees as our focus. Later in the session, Young Rembrandts works on our integral drawing skills as we learn about penguins. In addition, we will draw our version of a well-known painting, American Gothic. Our versions are full of personality! Our freehand drawing program is geared to ultimately enhance your child's self-confidence and overall academic performance! **Taught by Young Rembrandts.** Cost: \$67 per session (includes materials).

## KIDS OFF SCHOOL TAKE A TRIP ON THE WILD SLIDE

**Ages 6-12**  
**Monday; February 18;**  
**9-4:30 pm; Meet at Swaim**  
**Lodge (ZigZag lot)**  
At CoCoKey in Sharonville, we'll slip and slide our way through the day as we encounter the interactive adventure structure, The Parrot's Perch. Also, 4-thrilling body and raft waterslides, the Coconut Grove Adventure River, Shark Slam, Gator Gush and Pelican Plunge. A day full of bright and sunny 84-degree temps and plenty of wild excitement awaits! Sign-up soon to save your place poolside, either online or at Montgomery City Hall. *Bring your swimsuit, a towel, and a change of clothes.* Cost: \$35 (includes lunch!).

**Chaperones are needed. To help, call 792-8348**

## SPRING BREAK IS MOVING JUMP ON BOARD!

**Monday-Friday; March 24 to**  
**March 28; 8:30 am-5:30 pm**  
**Meet at Annex Building**

(10115 Montgomery Road)  
Grab a friend and join us for a week of transportation Fun! We will travel to places like the Kentucky Horse Park, Wright Pat Air Force Base and the Underground Railroad, just to name a few of our destinations. So check your passport and pack a lunch as we journey down the highway each day bringing new and exciting adventures! Cost: \$45 per day or \$200 per week (\$50 per day or \$225 per week NR)

## FOLLOW THE SIGN HANDS ABOVE THE REST

**Classes will start in mid-**  
**March; Dates, Times and**  
**Location TBD**  
Adults, Seniors, pre-school and Tweens...it's never too late to learn! Sign Language can reduce frustration, facilitate communication and enhance your child's self-esteem; it can also stimulate brain activity and help maintain cognitive



performance in adults and senior adults. Taught by certified instructor, Tina McCarty, material will be presented through fun, interactive and easy to remember activities and games. Look for more information in the March newsletter. Sign-ups will be online beginning March 3 or in person at City Hall, 10101 Montgomery Road. This class can be taken either individually, with a friend or with your child (ages 12 and up).

## BEGINNING AND INTERMEDIATE BRIDGE

**Tuesdays & Thursdays;**  
**begins in April (Dates and**  
**Times TBD); evenings; Twin**  
**Lakes at Montgomery (9840**  
**Montgomery Road)**  
Attention Boomers, Seniors, College and High School Students! Start now to learn the game. Bridge is an excellent hobby. You will meet new friends, keep your mind sharp, and have fun! Warren Buffet and Bill Gates both play bridge.



They have learned that bridge is more than a card game. It teaches logic, reasoning, quick thinking, patience, concentration, and partnership skills. Instructor Linda Wolber, is a certified ACBL director, and is a board member of the Cincinnati Bridge Association. *Sign-ups begin March 3. Cost: \$75 per 6-week session.*

## Program Registration

- Please register at least three days prior to the start of the program, or by the noted deadline.
- All in-person registration takes place at City Hall, 10101 Montgomery Road. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. (Register anytime at [www.montgomeryohio.org](http://www.montgomeryohio.org).)
- Checks should be made payable to the City of Montgomery.
- No refunds will be issued for cancellations within three days prior to the start of the program. There is a \$25 cancellation fee for all programs.
- Montgomery Recreation reserves the right to cancel any class due to low enrollment.

## Questions about Parks & Recreation Programs?

For further information, call 792-8317 or 792-8348.



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**Susan Hamm**

**City Manager**  
**Cheryl A. Hilvert**

# All Around Town

## MWC Antiques Show & Sale returns for 36<sup>th</sup> year on March 16

The Montgomery Woman's Club will hold its 36th Annual Antiques Show & Sale at Sycamore High School, 7400 Cornell Road, on Sunday, March 16, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Admission is \$7 at the door (*children 12 and under are admitted free*).

The Montgomery Woman's Club Antiques Show & Sale is one of the longest running and most prestigious successful antique shows in the Midwest. The Antiques Show & Sale is managed exclusively by the volunteers of Montgomery Woman's Club, Inc.

More than 40 dealers from eight states will display some of the country's finest examples of American and English antiques furniture, crystal, silver, china, jewelry, pewter,

folk arts and more. Each year the show is bigger and better than ever. By supporting the event you will not only enjoy a fabulous show, but will also help Montgomery Woman's Club support its community projects.

Homemade lunches and desserts will be available for purchase during the show.

For further information please call (513) 852-1901.

## Cris Collinsworth replaces Esiason at MWC lecture series

The Town Hall Lecture Series has announced a change in its 2007-08 series. Cris Collinsworth will speak on March 19 & 20. Collinsworth was a wide receiver for eight seasons with the Cincinnati Bengals.

Chris replaces Boomer Esiason, who recently cancelled his appearance

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS			
FEBRUARY • FEBRUARY • FEBRUARY • FEBRUARY			
4	Arts Commission	City Hall	5 pm
4	Planning Commission	City Hall	7:30 pm
6	Council Business Session	City Hall	7 pm
7	Parks & Recreation Commission	City Hall	6:30 pm
9	Community Leadership Forum	City Hall	8:30-11:30 am
10	Artists in the Park & Fine Arts Sampler	City Hall	2-4pm
10	BAMSO Valentine Concert	St. Barnabas Church	6 pm
11	Beautification Commission	City Hall	9 am
12	Environmental Advisory Commission	City Hall	4:30 pm
13	Landmarks Commission	City Hall	7 pm
16	Cardboard Recycling	7315 Cornell Road	10 am-1 pm
17	Sensory Sunday ( <i>reservations required</i> )	Terwilliger Lodge	5 pm
18	Presidents Day - <i>Sycamore Schools Closed</i>	Rec. Dept. Day Trip	
18	Planning Commission	City Hall	7:30 pm
19	Sister Cities Commission	City Hall	7 pm
20	Council Work Session	City Hall	7 pm
26	Board of Zoning Appeals	City Hall	7:30 pm

at the Montgomery Woman's Club lecture series.

Individual tickets are available for the Collinsworth lectures at a cost of \$35 per person. The Wednesday and

Thursday morning lectures will be held at the theater inside Kings Island at 11 a.m.

The Wednesday evening lecture will be held in the auditorium of Sycamore Junior High

School at 8 p.m.

For additional ticket information, visit the web site at [www.montgomerywomanclub.org](http://www.montgomerywomanclub.org) or call the Town Hall voice mail at 684-1632.