



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

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Montgomery Bulletin

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INSIDE:

Council actions

Page 2

Meet the newest Council member

Page 2

Involvement like no other city

Page 2

Snow priorities

Page 3

Make a difference in 2008

Pages 4 & 8

Sensory Sundays return in February

Page 5

Parks Commission reviews study

Page 6

Energy challenge begins in small steps

Page 6

Recreation round-up

Page 7

Montgomery Night at the Cyclones

Page 8

Council adopts 2008 budget, forecasts trends

At its December 5, Business Meeting, Montgomery City Council approved the City's 2008 Operating and Capital Budget. The action also included a Four Year Forecast and 2008-2012 Capital Improvement Program that — along with the City's five-year Strategic Plan — will serve as the centerpiece of the City's operations, not only for fiscal year 2008, but also for the four year period extending to 2012.

City Council, Commissions, and staff have been engaged in the planning and preparation of the 2008 budget since May. This extended time frame allows ample time for everyone with an interest in the budget to be a part of the process. The advanced planning allows for flexibility as new planning guidelines and mandates occur (*labor contracts, changes in benefit structures, and unanticipated issues, such as the arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer*). The timeframe provides for a thorough review of the overall plan long before the year-end adoption of a formal budget.

This extensive planning process, which includes the development of a five-year plan, allows the City to identify trends that are occurring with both its revenues and expenditures. The analysis of trend information is key to crafting a budget that enables the City to identify potential problem areas in its financial planning. Examples of this in the 2008 budget include the anticipated elimination of the estate tax in 2010, and flat levels of state funding through 2012.

While the numbers in a budget are important, often overlooked is the importance of the strategic role that



the budget document plays in enabling the City to pursue its vision. The City's new \$34.7 million budget plan will allow the City to achieve the following during 2008:

- *Increased investments in the city's infrastructure maintenance, including enhanced citywide street repaving projects and the streetscape in the Heritage District*
- *Maintenance of targeted fund balances in four of the City's major funds, including the General Fund, Bond Retirement Fund, Capital*

Improvement Fund and the Arts and Amenities Fund

- *Early payoff of the Ohio National tax increment debt*
- *Strengthening the community outreach program that includes Montgomery's first Citizen Leadership Academy,*
- *Issuance of new debt for public parking garages in the \$192 million Vintage Club project.*

Each of these highlight areas, provide a direct linkage between the budget and the City's Strategic Plan. Additionally, the areas addressed also demonstrate responsiveness to the feedback that the City receives from its citizens. As an example, when the City hears from citizens, as it did in the 2005 Citizen's Survey, that 93.1% of its citizens rate Street Maintenance as "Extremely" or "Very Important," it takes steps, as it has with the infrastructure maintenance initiative, to address these issues.

Continued on page 7

Mayor Harbison, Vice-Mayor Suer continue to lead

New Council begins service

Montgomery's new City Council was administered the oath of office at the start of the December 5 business session. City Council supported the reappointments of Gerri Harbison as Mayor and Ken Suer as Vice-Mayor. Mayor Harbison has served on City Council since 1999 and Vice-Mayor Suer has served on City Council since 2000.

A new member, Vicki Hirsch, was elected in November to a seat vacated by retiring member,

Councilman Bill Niehaus. Todd Steinbrink began his second term on City Council following his reelection in November.

As part of its business session, City Council unanimously supported a certificate of appreciation to Councilman Niehaus in recognition of his years of work and dedication to the City.

Also serving on City Council are Mark Combs and Barry Joffe, both elected to four-year terms in 2005.

Community involvement like no other community



This month's message by Council Member Vicki E. Hirsch

As we move into the New Year, we are moving into a promising 2008 knowing we have a preeminent residential community, a sound business base and dedicated local government. For myself, as a new face on Council, it is an exciting time for us as we work together to find a common means of continuing to share concerns and their solutions.

In reviewing the 2007 Comprehensive Plan, we are provided with insightful data that provides various characteristics of our population today and presents comparative data from previous years. This

document holds a wealth of readily assimilated economic data. Past, present and future policies are included for those interested in the process and the workings of city government. Sometimes, getting to know the underpinnings of our City of Montgomery can help us to better understand the problems/conflicts that arise in the everyday operations of this place we treasure and call home.

For myself, a native of Wisconsin and a product of living in suburbs of numerous large cities, I have known of no other community that welcomes its citizens to become actively engaged in a dozen citizen Boards and Commissions. The history behind these Montgomery citizen groups is mighty in years and loyally

productive in dedication. The spin off in service from any of these organizations is a deeply committed appreciation to what this affluent community is all about. The scope and nature of Montgomery citizen Boards and Commissions is so varied that there is something for each of us to join and contribute to as we share in the manifestations that keep our economy stable and our outlook positive.

This monthly *Montgomery Bulletin* that you are reading is a collage of data that can keep you abreast of the wide variety of Council business, initiatives, issues and dates of meetings where you are welcome to attend, but there is much more in this *Bulletin*. A calendar of monthly meeting dates/times of Boards and Commissions is always included. Recreation

events and class offerings are open invitations to citizens to participate in friendly community gatherings. So take out your highlighter and identify what interests you and get it on your own calendar. Montgomery has always been a City of togetherness and when we build togetherness we aren't about to let it down.

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

Vicki Hirsch: the newest member of Montgomery City Council

Vicki E. Hirsch and her husband Don moved to Montgomery in the early 1970s after living in the suburbs of numerous large cities. Upon her arrival in Montgomery, Vicki immediately began her dedication to the community as a career teacher at Montgomery Elementary School for 30 years. She retired from teaching in 2003, but continued to serve the next four years as an elected member of the Sycamore Community School Board.

Vicki has also served the citizens of Montgomery as a member of the Landmarks Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and Bicentennial Steering Commission. Vicki worked as a chemist during WWII. She continues an interest in world affairs through global travels and World Affairs Councils. She and Don have a son, a daughter, grand children and great grand children.

Vicki holds BS and MA degrees from the University of Wisconsin and a Doctorate from the University of Cincinnati.

COUNCIL CORNER

Montgomery City Council will meet in its regular monthly business session on January 8 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 CDS Associates, Inc, for professional services related to general engineering and architectural services
- 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
- A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Statewide Ford for the purchase of two police cruisers
- 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

Recent Council Action

DECEMBER 5 BUSINESS SESSION

- An ordinance to make appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Montgomery during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2008 (passed 7-0)
- A resolution adopting a five year capital improvement program for the City of Montgomery (passed 7-0)
- A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a labor agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police Ohio Valley Lodge 112, for wages and benefits from

July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2010 (passed 7-0)

- A resolution establishing compensation for the City Manager (passed 7-0)
- A resolution authorizing an agreement to the current contract with Donnellon, Donnellon and Miller for legal services to the City of Montgomery (passed 7-0)

DECEMBER 28 WORK SESSION

- An ordinance to amend appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Montgomery during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2007 (passed 7-0)

The cold facts on hot topic of snow removal

Montgomery has set a goal of clearing streets within 12-hours after snow stops falling. Snowfall of more than inches,



however, may require more time. To achieve the goal, Montgomery has established a priority plowing system for the nearly 50 miles of roadway within the City. The street clearing priority map may be viewed on the City's website.

Arterial and main streets are plowed in the earliest phase of snow removal, followed by residential side streets. Efforts then culminate with cul-de-sacs and other low volume roadways. Cul-de-sacs are more difficult and time consuming to clear when compared to through streets as there is less space in parkways and tree lawns to plow or pile snow without burying driveways, mailboxes, streetlights or fire hydrants.

In the event of an emergency

during heavy snowfalls, call 9-1-1. If an ambulance, fire truck or police vehicle requires assistance to reach an emergency,

City will immediately free up a snow removal truck to clear

roadways for emergency crews.

The City of Montgomery completes snow removal on almost all public streets within City limits, however, there are roads that are the responsibility of other government agencies such as the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) or the

Hamilton County Engineer's office. For example, ODOT completes snow removal on Montgomery Road north of Weller Road and the Hamilton County Engineer clears Ronald Reagan/Cross County Highway.

For more information, call Public Works Director Bob Nikula at 792-8311 or refer to the snow removal priority map on the city website.

Quality of life factors reflect community core values

Quality of life factors are what make for a desirable Montgomery. Quality of life is built on a number of elements, each one adding to the attractive character that is recognized as uniquely Montgomery.

These factors range from the standards of City based services to the high ranking Sycamore Schools to the famed restaurants, tailored retailers and company headquarters. Balance these elements with the diversity in home options, proximity to main highways, accessible neighborhood parks and the overall historical character and that **IS** Montgomery: a premier

and enviable suburb in southwest Ohio.

The challenge is to maintain balance between progress, history and the charm of Montgomery. To stand still is to be left behind so progress and improvement is vital. History gives a community roots and permanency so preservation is essential. The balance of the two is where Montgomery is positioned to reflect outwardly the charm that is valued internally.

Communication, on-going and timely, is what allows community leaders to keep their finger on the

pulse of the City. That translates to involvement and sharing by everyone as to what the core values of this community are, and committing to those values and finding ways to reflect those values with actions. Citizens that have chosen to have a voice and be involved most directly affect the fine-tuning of Montgomery and establish the standards for services and the quality of life factors that drive residents and businesses to want to call Montgomery home.

We encourage you to help us continue to shape our community and preserve its vitality into the future.

Montgomery: real commitment to meaningful communication

As part of the five-year strategic plan in 2007, the City committed to open and honest, two-way dialogues between the City and its residents. Over the course of the year, Council and staff have focused on two areas: transparency in government and active listening.

Transparency in government is made possible through clear, timely, accurate information sharing. To accomplish this has taken a commitment by staff and Council to make use of technology and innovative tools and include such new services as online posting of agendas and minutes, online subscriptions for areas of interest, e-gov services across city departments, and a multi-pronged approach to soliciting feedback and responding with updates in a



timely manner. Internally, City communications were audited and critiqued so that consistency, ease of access and friendliness were apparent in all forms of communications to our customers.

Transparency also requires a commitment to direct and honest communications on tough subjects and includes educating on legal restraints and opportunities, fiscal planning and prioritizing, balance of opposing interest groups and maintaining a focus on serving our constituents.

Active listening as a government has meant being proactive in seeking opportunities for two-way dialogues with the residents and businesses of Montgomery by going to local neighborhood meetings, diversifying locations and times of public meetings for ease of access and participation, utilizing multi-format media such as park postings, online information, the newly revised monthly *Bulletin*, increased press communications and one-on-one discussions.

New efforts have included the development of the Montgomery Citizen Leadership Academy, new-resident focus groups, establishing liaisons with civic groups, utilizing the City information booth at events and partnering with local businesses, schools and civic organizations for promotion and support.

A unique opportunity in 2007 was to participate in HOMEARAMA, which showcased Montgomery to over 100,000 visitors and allowed for a partnership with the school system to provide visitors a glimpse of what Montgomery has to offer.

To follow-up on this type of community interface, the City will be ready early in 2008 with an information packet to welcome new residents and also to provide realtors with an overview of Montgomery. A similar packet will be developed for local businesses and to provide commercial realtors with the highlights and opportunities in Montgomery.

All of these efforts are focused on enhancing our dialogue with our most important customer — You!

In the new year, make a difference

Making a resolution is a customary part of bringing in a new year and often we focus on making changes by making a commitment. The typical resolution focuses on making a difference in your self and that commitment usually lasts 2 to 3 weeks before it is set aside and old habits return. In 2008, challenge yourself to keeping your resolution and commit to a resolution that is about making a difference.

Making a difference can be done through a number of outlets and most of them only

require a commitment of time. The opportunities offered through the local churches or synagogues, not-for-profit organizations and the schools can be very rewarding and one person can truly make a significant difference. Other options might be to get active with a neighborhood association or a city commission

where the impact is seen first hand and the benefits come back to those involved. City and local events and programs offer a shorter term option to make a difference but still the need is there for people who

resolve to make a commitment in 2008.

And, not to short change any health and fitness resolutions, the City Recreation Department has several ongoing fitness classes for all ages and interests (*see listings on page 7*). Also, there are miles of city sidewalks

and park pathways to bike, jog, skate or walk and many sport fields and courts to build new skills and add to both physical and mental health that comes with getting active and enjoying the outdoors.

So challenge yourself! It is up to you to make a difference.



Helping hands needed for removal of holiday decorations

In November, 68 volunteers did a phenomenal job decorating the Heritage District for the holiday season. Once again, the City received numerous accolades on our festive holiday atmosphere that all the wreaths and garlands elicited.

Volunteer assistance is now needed to remove, inventory and store the holiday decorations. Members of the Montgomery Woman's Club and the Beautification and Tree Commission that spearhead the project would welcome additional helping hands on

Friday, January 4, at 10 a.m.

Those volunteers preferring to work outdoors to do the "take down" work will meet at the Universalist Church (*corner of Remington & Montgomery Roads*) while those volunteers working indoors to focus on inventory and storage will meet at the City's Annex Bldg. (*10115 Montgomery Rd.*).

Contact Joyce Yock (792-8329) to sign up or for additional information. Donating even an hour of your time to this project would be most appreciated!

How these folks made a difference in 2007...

Continuing their efforts to promote historic preservation, the **Landmarks Commission** reviewed a variety of applications for new signs in the Heritage District and established a comprehensive sign plan for the new business occupants in the Montgomery Gateway Center (Triangle). In addition, commission members approved a new house on Cooper Road and paint colors and materials were also approved for the Montgomery Row condominium townhouse project on Main and Remington Streets. An addition to the Arstingstall May House on West Street is currently under review. The seven volunteer members of this commission meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 pm in City Hall.

Members of the **Planning Commission** meet on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:30 pm in City Hall. In 2007, the seven members updated the comprehensive plan and reviewed the streetscape ordinance. The commission also reviewed applications for the outdoor patio at J. Arthurs Café, section 4 of the Vintage Club, a conditional use permit for a Montessori school and renovations to the exterior of Star One Realtors.

The **Board of Zoning Appeals** met eight times in 2007 to hear eleven cases. Variances were granted for front and side yard setbacks for six homeowners and one sign variance was granted. The seven board members are scheduled to meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in City Hall.

January Volunteer Opportunities

- **Holiday Decorations Take Down** (*see article at left*)
Friday, January 4
- **School's Out Trip Chaperones** (*see article page 7*)
Friday, January 14; 8 am - 5 pm
- **Service Dept. Recycling Project**
Saturday, January 19, from 10 am - 1 pm
- **City Hall Clerical Assistance/
Finance & Payroll Departments**
Flexible Time

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



DID YOU KNOW?

In the 1830 census, the little town of Montgomery had only 270 inhabitants? Between the years of 1830 and 1910, the population only grew to 500. That census was taken when the town was incorporated into a Village. From then until now, we have grown into a healthy, vibrant City with 10,100 people!

Sensory Sundays to tantalize & entertain

Reserve the dates now for this popular three-part series, to be offered at Terwilliger Lodge on Sundays, February 17, March 2 and March 16. Each offering will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

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

Look for more information at www.montgomeryohio.org and in the Sensory Sunday brochure. Tickets are limited to 90 guests and are \$75 for the series starting January 7 at Montgomery City Hall or on the city website. Single event tickets can be purchased for \$28 starting January 23 at City Hall or online.

Can you help?

Six volunteers are needed and only pay half price. Call 792-8348 to volunteer.

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



Holiday Coloring Contest Winner

Amy Sanker of Montgomery earned kudos for the City's Grand Prize winner in the annual Holiday Coloring Contest. Amy's work featured a dog playing in the snow. Amy's entry was judged as the winner for artistic impression, overall skill and best use of color. After the award ceremony, Amy and other winners of the contest — along with Santa himself — rode down to the corner of Cooper and Montgomery Roads, where Amy helped Mayor Harbison turn on the lights to the City's 30-foot Christmas tree and officially kicked off the holiday season with singing around the tree.

Hats Off...



to the team of **68** volunteers that shared **170 hours** of their time to decorate the Heritage District in holiday attire. Thanks to their efforts our downtown was festively "decorated with an abundance of wreathes, bows and boughs to be enjoyed by our residents as well as visitors to our community. A grateful "THANK YOU" is extended to each and every one of these dedicated volunteers.

Come share the "Galette"

To celebrate the Feast of Epiphany, The Alliance Française of Cincinnati will sponsor its popular annual "Fête de la Galette des Rois" on Sunday, January 6.

Open to the public, the party takes place at Terwilliger Lodge in Montgomery, 2-4:30pm.

The "Galette" is a favorite tradition in France. A "fève" or small china figurine, is hidden in the galette or cake before baking. The lucky guest who receives the fève in his piece of cake is crowned king or queen for the day. Children love the

game. Additional kids games are planned.

Reservations are required by January 2. The cost for the event is \$6 for Alliance Française members; \$8 for non-AF members; \$12 at the door. The cost includes one slice of galette and one drink). Send check for attendees to: Alliance Française, 1316 Deliquia Dr., Cincinnati OH 45230.

Terwilliger Lodge is in Dulle Park at 10530 Deerfield Rd.. For more information go to www.france-cincinnati.com, or contact Alliance Française voice mail, 513-389-9100.

Thanks to the artists in the park

The November 11 Artists in the Park event, sponsored by the Arts Commission, featured a variety of "hands on" sculpture demonstrations.

Adult guests had an opportunity to observe metal welding, woodturning and cake sculpting while children enjoyed creating a ceramic piece from clay. A grateful "Thank You" is extended to the following artists for demonstrating their artistic



At left, children enjoy creating a ceramic art object from clay. At right, Cliff Goosemann turns a wooden work of art on a lathe.



talents at the event:

Cliff Goosemann,
David Morrical,
David Voegtly,
Nick Schirz
Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild

Teri Scheff
Artrageous Desserts & Cheesecake Please

Ray Miller
Metal Sculptor

Rosie Stocker
Clay Art Instructor

Park study presented to Parks Commission

The Montgomery Parks and Recreation Commission has received the Park Study by Leisure Services Management and discussed the list of recommended park projects and improvements at its December 6 meeting.

The Park Study was commissioned by the City in an effort to examine the conditions and amenities offered in current parks as well as make recommendations for future enhancements to the park system. The study features the professional recommendations of Leisure Services

Management, as well as many thoughts and ideas of Montgomery citizens as generated through an extensive public input process.

General findings

A summary of the general findings within the Park Study and related suggestions include:

- *The Montgomery Park system is well distributed, well connected within the City and in good condition*
- *Park and recreation dollars spent per resident is in the middle of the range locally and is meeting the*

expectations of citizens

- *Recreation revenue covers 31% of the parks and recreation budget compared to an average of 20% nationally*
- *Ratio of parks to recreation funding of 42% to 58% is close to the national norm of 33% to 66%*
- *Ratio of operating to capital expenses is currently \$15 to \$1 and the national average is \$4.5 to \$1*
- *Recreation offers a broad range of programming, event and enriching opportunities*

Study suggestions

- *Consider regional connectivity and start conversations with neighboring communities to begin process*
- *Prioritize maintenance of park infrastructure through capital investment spread over time*
- *Consider opportunities to add park or recreation space in the downtown area when available and feasible*
- *Apply green technologies where available and include interpretive elements at each site to stress importance and set a positive example*
- *Pursue alternative funding sources through grants, establishment of a foundation to accept donations and look for opportunities for partnerships*

Energy Challenge seeks success with small steps

National concern and awareness of critical environment and energy problems have prompted all of us to do our part to save energy. There are many small sacrifices and changes that result in positive environmental impact.

Energy efficiency appliances – more conscientious consumers drive manufacturer development and innovation in energy efficiency in appliances

Setting the thermostat one

Fahrenheit degree lower during the winter results — on average — in five percent less gas consumption in homes heating with natural gas.



Sitting by a window to read during the daylight hours rather than turning on a lamp, since lighting is responsible for 8 percent of all energy consumption and 22 percent of electricity

nationwide.

Use Energy Star labeled compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), which use up to 75 percent less energy than incandescent lamps... plus

CFLs last ten times longer!

Change the five most frequently used light bulbs to ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs. If done nationwide, more than one trillion pounds of greenhouse gases would be kept out of our air (*the equivalent in air pollution to taking more than 8 million cars off the road for an entire year!*)

CFLs also save much more mercury from the environment than they contain by avoiding the mercury emission that would occur if coal-fired power plants generated the energy that the CFLs have saved. (*Hamilton County has fluorescent lamp disposal centers to prevent the very small mercury content of CFLs from entering the atmosphere.*)

These are some simple but effective ways to have a positive impact on our environment. All of these can be applied in the home and as part of the City of Montgomery Energy Challenge. It is not too late to get involved. Check the City website for details on the Energy Challenge criteria.

Montgomery is committed to making a difference.

The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed a summary of the study during its meeting, then recommended that a subcommittee comprised of representation from City Council, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and City staff be established to thoroughly review the recommendations. The subcommittee will use this study to develop a recommendation that is conscious of the current usage, prioritizes maintenance and upgrade of existing park amenities and sites, seeks broader input on each project if warranted and manages spending wisely by being opportunistic. The recommendations developed by the subcommittee will serve as a quality tool for comprehensive planning and prioritization of park improvements in the future.

A copy of the park study is available on the City website www.montgomeryohio.org.

Saturday curbside pick-ups announced for Christmas trees, wreaths & swags

Residents who want to participate in the City's Christmas tree, wreath and swag curbside collection program will not be required to have a yard waste sticker attached for pick-up. Simply place the item at the curb and Rumpke will pick it up on Saturday, December 29, January 5 or January 12.

Each item must be completely free of all plastic, flocking, tinsel and decorations.

As a reminder, regular yard waste collection will resume in March.



Parks & Recreation Programs

HIGHLIGHTS OF OFFERINGS FROM MONTGOMERY PARKS & RECREATION

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

TUMMY TUCKS\PILATES Tuesdays and Thursdays; January 22 to March 13 (16 classes); 6-7 pm; Annex Building

Join us in this innovative Pilates class geared towards using core body muscles (abdominal, obliques, back, and gluteals) to get effective results in your mid-section. This workout gets results in all the problem places by working on lengthening of the spine, proper alignment and posture, and a strong center to give you a slimmer profile. Classes taught by Tri-Health certified instructor. Some equipment provided. Register at City Hall by January 17. Min 12/Max 20 participants. Cost is \$65R/\$70NR

20/20/20 BOOMER STYLE

Tuesdays and Thursdays;
January 22 to March 13 (16
classes); 9-10 am; Annex
Building

Specifically designed to meet the needs of Baby Boomers, this class offers light cardiovascular exercises, light strength training, and light stretching for 20 minutes each. Experienced in teaching to people over 50, the instructor will teach to your fitness level taking into account common physical concerns and

the value of gaining and maintaining muscle strength. Some equipment provided. Register at City Hall by January 17. Min 12/Max 20 participants. Cost is \$65R/\$70NR

LATIN DANCE AEROBICS Thursdays; January 24 to March 13 (8 classes); 4:45-5:45 pm; Annex Building

This class is designed to give participants a high energy aerobic workout using Latin dance moves. The instructor will work with the class at a pace that allows everyone to learn the basic moves, have fun and get a great cardio workout. No dance skills required. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a water bottle. Register at City Hall or online by January 17. Min 12/Max 20 participants. Cost is \$40R/\$45NR

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 is \$35R/\$40NR per month

YOUTH DRAWING CLASS Ages 6 to 13 yrs

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).

WINTER HORSEBACK TRIP

Ages 10+
Friday, January 4; 8 am-5 pm;
Meet at Swaim Lodge
If leaving tracks in the snow all bundled up on top of a horse is your idea of a perfect start to the new year, be sure to sign up now for this trek through the beautiful landscape in the hills of Salt Creek Ranch in Indiana. Trip includes transportation by bus, horse training, a 2 hour horseback ride through the woods and a campfire lunch. Cost: \$45 Register online or at

City Hall by January 2. Min 15/Max 35 participants. Signed waiver forms required. (Volunteer chaperones needed. Call 792-8348 if interested.)

KIDS OFF SCHOOL

Ages 6-12

Monday, February 18; 9 am - 4:30 pm; Meet at Swaim Lodge
Take a trip on the wild slide at CoCo Key Resort 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! See the February Bulletin for details. Sign-ups begin Monday, January 7 either online or at Montgomery City Hall. Cost: \$35 for the day (to include lunch!). Min 15 to go\ 40 max Six chaperones needed, call 792-8348.

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

Budget planning...

Continued from the front page

With the 2008 budget complete, the implementation phase of the budget will begin. Just because the City's budget has been approved, it is not taken for granted by City Council or staff that each expenditure is going to be made. In fact, the approach taken is that each expenditure is reviewed and justified before

obligating the City's appropriations.

This is the nature of the budgeting process in Montgomery and its linkage to a comprehensive approach to the City's financial and strategic planning processes. As a result of these comprehensive and strategic processes, all of us benefit from a community that is financially healthy and delivers high quality services and projects to its residents.

Mayor
Gerri Harbison

Vice Mayor
Ken Suer

Council Members
Mark Combs
Barry Joffe
Vicki Hirsch
Lynda Roesch
Todd Steinbrink

Clerk of Council
Susan Hamm

City Manager
Cheryl A. Hilvert

All Around Town

Montgomery Night at the Cyclones!

Friday, February 22, has been designated Montgomery Night at the Cincinnati Cyclones. Gametime is 7:30 p.m. at US Bank Arena. Advance tickets are required for the group discount to apply when the Cyclones play the Johnstown Chiefs.

Tickets must be bought in advance and offer discounts of up to \$7 per seat. Discounted ticket prices (for all ages) are just \$8.00 for the endzone, \$10.00 for the center ice sections and \$22.50 for seats on the glass. Sections on the home side have been reserved for Montgomery, so specify you want to be part of Montgomery Night at the Cyclones when calling for tickets. Call Chris at 421-7825, ext. 392, for information on seat availability! General information and ticket order forms are available on the City website.

Wild West Carnival set January 25

The Montgomery Elementary PTO will host its annual carnival Friday, January 25, from 5:30-9 p.m. Held at the school, 9609 Montgomery Road, this family event will have you bouncing in a huge mountain inflatable, tossing bean bags with Black Bart and testing your roping skills at Leapin' Lassos. Food will be available from Lone Star, baked goods at the Cookie Corral and lots of pizza. The hugely popular Silent Auction will be available for adults. All proceeds benefit the PTO. For information, call Angi Marks at 530-9055.

Kick the year off with a Volunteer Role

Make a positive difference. Learn more about our City government. Meet other civic minded residents. Share your unique talents and professional experiences.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

JANUARY • JANUARY • JANUARY • JANUARY

1	New Years Day/City Offices Closed (<i>trash delayed one day</i>)		
2	Council Business Session	City Hall	7 pm
4	Horseback Trip	Meet at Swaim Lodge	8 am
6	Galette des Rois	Terwilliger Lodge	2 - 4:30 pm
7	Arts Commission	City Hall	7 pm
7	Planning Commission	City Hall	7:30 pm
8	Environmental Advisory Commission	City Hall	4:30 pm
9	Landmarks Commission	City Hall	7 pm
10	Parks & Recreation Commission	City Hall	6:30 pm
14	Beautification & Tree Commission	City Hall	9 am
15	Sister Cities Commission	City Hall	7 pm
18	Sycamore Schools Closed		
19	Cardboard Recycling	7315 Cornell Road	10 am - 1 pm
21	Martin Luther King Day/City Offices Closed (<i>trash pickup as usual</i>)		
22	Board of Zoning Appeals	City Hall	7:30 pm
23	Council Work Session	City Hall	7 pm
28	Planning Commission	City Hall	7:30 pm
31	Fourth Quarter 2003 Taxes Due		

Contributing your time to serve on a City board or commission may be your ticket to accomplishing all of the above in 2008. Volunteer positions are available on the following boards/commissions: **Landmarks and Planning Commissions** and the **Board of Zoning**

Appeals. If you would like to attend an upcoming meeting to learn more about the board or commission's projects and to meet the current members, call Joyce Yock, Volunteer Coordinator, at 792-8329 or visit the City's website www.montgomeryohio.org.

Think warm thoughts Montgomery Municipal Pool passes will go on sale March 17. Resident rates are \$245 (*family*) and \$125 (*single*). A limited number of non-resident passes are available with at \$445 (*family*) and \$205 (*single*).