

March 2008

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Pilot program would be the first in Ohio

Recycling test would offer financial incentives

The City of Montgomery is being considered to become the first in Ohio to host RecycleBank, an incentive-based recycling program in which residents receive coupons based on the amount of material they recycle. In partnership with RecycleBank and Rumpke, the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District (District) is interested in facilitating a two-year pilot project in the City of Montgomery. There is no cost to the residents of the City of Montgomery for participating in this pilot project.



The goal of the project is to stimulate participation in community curbside recycling programs and to further increase the City's recycling rate. The pilot project will determine if the RecycleBank program has the potential to increase recycling rates.

Why the City of Montgomery?

The City of Montgomery was chosen because residents are accustomed to using wheeled garbage carts and the number of households in Montgomery makes the pilot program manageable. To facilitate the program, the District submitted a grant application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Community Development Grant to offset some of the costs. Results of the grant are scheduled to be announced in May. If the grant is awarded, the pilot project would begin in the fall.

How does the program work?

Participating residents receive a wheeled RecycleBank toter; the toter has an identification code and when the recyclables are picked up, the material is weighed and recorded by the recycling truck, and the amount is then translated into reward dollars for the residents to use at local and national stores. Each participating resident will receive a starter kit with instructions and account information.

Individual accounts can be accessed through the RecycleBank website or by phone. The website shows users how much they

recycled and how many reward points they have earned. From here, users can redeem their rewards with 400 retail partners that participate in the RecycleBank program. Under the current program, residents can earn up to \$35 each month in RecycleBank rewards.

Because RecycleBank is not a hauler, the program works with recycling haulers to implement the program. Recycling trucks are equipped with scales. Recycling carts are equipped with radio frequency identification tags. This program only works with carts and single-stream recycling programs.

To learn more about RecycleBank, visit www.recyclebank.com. For more information about the pilot project, call the City of Montgomery at 792-8314.

Sergeant John Crowell earns invite to FBI National Academy

Montgomery Police Sergeant John Crowell recently received an invitation to attend the elite FBI National Academy, which has stringent admission requirements.



John Crowell

Acceptance into the Academy is highly competitive with fewer than one percent of law enforcement officers in the country accepted for the training, said Police Chief Don Simpson, also an FBI National Academy graduate.

The FBI National Academy was

founded in 1935 by J. Edgar Hoover and is recognized as the premier provider of law enforcement expertise and training. Participants attend a 10-week session with courses in Leadership and Management Science, Behavioral Science, Law,

Communication, Forensic Science and Health/Fitness.

Participation is by invitation only. All costs of the training, including travel, lodging and meals, are paid by the FBI.

Why so many unanimous votes by City Council?



This month's message by Council Member Mark Combs

Last year, I read a few editorials and heard citizen comments critical of the fact that so many of the votes taken by council are unanimous. There are, of course, numerous non-controversial topics at the local level, such as infrastructure maintenance of roads and scheduled replacement of police vehicles. But beyond decisions of this type, I considered those aspects of local government that would distinguish Montgomery from other

municipalities. As a current member of council with the most 'no' votes, I offer three perspectives on the workings of council that may help explain the high percentage of unanimous votes.

Bottom Up Governance

You may recall participating in a community survey in 2005. Unlike many of the contemporary political 'surveys' calculated to achieve a predetermined result or to advance a particular agenda, our community survey relied on well-crafted questions designed to gauge community sentiment on specific topics that affect the quality of our daily lives. It was not an academic exercise whose results would be fodder

for our newsletter and then filed away. The results served as the foundation for developing the 2006 Strategic Plan. Given the large number of talented and well-educated people living in our community, the responses to the survey carried great weight. Knowing that more than 45% of Montgomery households took the time to respond to the survey affirmed its significance as a planning document. In addition to citizen input, council also considered the comments and suggestions of city staff, who are our frontline service providers. The finished product delineated goals and objectives for council and city staff derived primarily from the hundreds who responded to the survey. Council's role became that of implementing the expressed goals and desires of city residents rather than being elected officials who would define goals for city residents. It is a classic 'bottom up' versus 'top down' approach to managing our city.

Prioritize, Prepare, Perform

The strategic plan provides a focal point for current programs and projects and also serves as a guidepost for future planning. Since time and resources are finite, council must first address the core business of the city and

then seek innovative projects that are sustainable and enhance life in Montgomery. To accomplish this, a considerable amount of time is expended in preparation for committee meetings, work sessions, and formal business sessions. The committee meetings in particular are designed to vet out problems or differences. Rather than dwell on matters lacking strong support, the objective is generally to focus on identified and attainable goals. Those ideas that have merit but lack support are tabled for consideration after more research. By the time an issue comes before council for a vote, it has been thoroughly examined and discussed. I can understand how it may appear at times to be perfunctory, but it only looks "easy" because of the many hours spent on preparation.

Unstated Expectation

With the strategic plan as a roadmap, the paramount question in the mind of each council member is: "What's in Montgomery's best interest?" But there is also an unstated expectation of city residents that council members will use their collective judgment in attending to the city's business in a professional manner. When I, or others, have voted 'no' on an issue, the debate has been at times spirited but civilized. We express ourselves openly and then after respectfully disagreeing on an issue, we move on to the next order of business. That may strike some people as too polite, but it is far better than having a city council polarized by acrimonious public displays or derisive remarks. In that sense, I feel privileged to be part of a city council where 'egos are checked at the door' and each member simply wants what's best for our city.

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

Council and staff members to be available during special event April 12

Meet the members of Montgomery City Council and City staff members on Saturday, April 12 in Council Chambers. The "Meet & Greet" program is being offered from 9 a.m. to noon, which is the same time that the Tax Office will be open to assist residents with their City income taxes. Council members and staff from various departments will be available to answer questions, receive feedback and provide information on a variety of subjects. Residents will be able to review some of the current projects underway, check on up-coming recreational classes and events, and receive information on residential safety and volunteer opportunities.

COUNCIL CORNER

Montgomery City Council will meet in its regular monthly business session on March 5 at the City Hall. Meetings begin at 7 p.m., with public comment welcomed on each item before Council.

NEW LEGISLATION

■ A resolution accepting a bid and authorizing lawn mowing contracts in the City of Montgomery during 2008

■ An ordinance revising section 33.24 of the Code of

Ordinances governing promotional examinations

Recent Council Action

FEBRUARY 6 BUSINESS SESSION

■ An ordinance amending schedule of municipal compensation and declaring an emergency (passed 7-0)

■ 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 (passed 7-0)

Communication/Engagement efforts presented to Council

On February 6, Montgomery City Council received an update on the City's efforts to further improve communications and citizen engagement. These outreach efforts were identified as a major goal in the City's 2006 strategic plan and have been a focus of staff since 2007.

The City's citizen outreach/engagement efforts are designed to produce new opportunities for two-way dialogue with Montgomery residents. It is the hope that with two-way dialogue, the city government can be more responsive to all of its customers and — in turn — residents can be more involved in decision making and in understanding all aspects of decision-making and service delivery by their local government.

Engagement Efforts

Examples of engagement efforts include:

Montgomery Citizens' Leadership Academy: a nine session program designed to turn residents into active and informed citizens about our community.

Community Leadership Forum: an annual event designed to bring together residents and leaders of our civic organizations to share ideas and information.

Meetings with Neighborhood Associations/ Churches/ Civic Groups: to discover challenges, questions and common goals to enable everyone to work together for the betterment of the community.

The City of Montgomery will continue to reach out to existing organizations and residents in an effort toward both communications and collaboration in the community.

Communication Efforts

In terms of the City's communications efforts, City Council reviewed work in the following areas:

- Homearama 2007 Citizen Outreach and Communication
- Preparation of new resident packets, brochures and other communication vehicles
- Audit of City website, telephone and email messaging and enhancement to better serve the customer
- Media/press relations

Next Steps: Citizen Engagement

- Evaluate, improve and recruit for Montgomery Citizen Leadership



Academy in 2009

- Maintain communication with MCLA alumni and solicit comments regarding timely community issues
- Conduct business community focus groups or "summit" to gain meaningful insight
- Engage other demographic groups
- Develop a hospitality event sponsored by the collaborative, to welcome new residents

Next Steps: Communication

The City also plans to focus on the following as part of its communications efforts:

- Business community marketing
- Community feedback process
- PR awareness and promotions program for major developments
- Crisis communications

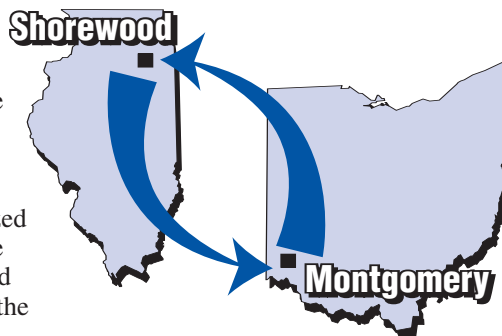
Have more ideas?

If you would like to learn more about the City's citizen engagement and communications efforts, or have ideas on how you can get more engaged in your community, contact Cheryl Hilvert or Amber Morris at 891-2424.

City mentors Shorewood in HPO model

A contingent of City employees met with employees of the City of Shorewood, Illinois, to share how the Montgomery experience with the High Performance Organization (HPO) model has been utilized within Montgomery over the past seven years. Shorewood has recently been trained in the HPO model from the University of Virginia and was looking for a city with practical experience in the implementation of HPO.

The HPO process has provided positive results for the City of Montgomery and is credited for fostering better customer service to the community. Under the HPO model, communities delivery high quality services that are a value to residents (*who are viewed as "customers"*), while maintaining sound financial performance for the City. Montgomery has received a number of awards related to services that follow the HPO concepts over the last few years.



The Montgomery employee team that met with the Shorewood employees were City Manager Cheryl Hilvert, Assistant City Manager Wayne Davis, Police Chief Don Simpson, Fire Chief Paul Wright, Police Detective Don Jasper, Assistant Public Works Director Brian Riblet and City Arborist/Public Works Supervisor Terry Willenbrink.

"The practical applications of the High Performance Organizational model that have been enacted in your City stand as shining examples and create an impressive path on my community's endeavor to

become a high performance organization," said Shorewood Village Manager Kurt Carroll in a letter to Mayor Harbison. "You and the City Council should be proud of your organization and yourselves for taking great strides to better serve your constituents. You and the City have a great deal to be proud of, especially of the very talented employees, who strive every day to make the City of Montgomery a great place to live."

On a similar note, the Montgomery employees made an educational presentation for The Ohio City/County Managers Association (OCMA) on how the HPO concepts have been incorporated into their human resource tools. The class highlighted how the City took the HPO model and incorporated the philosophy into items such as job descriptions, evaluations, goal setting and hiring processes. The class was held at the OCMA's February 26 conference in Columbus.

Renaissance Montessori opens in Presbyterian Church

Renaissance Montessori School has opened inside the Montgomery Presbyterian Church on Zig Zag Road. The school offers a Montessori program for children 18 months through Pre-Kindergarten, offering a Montessori education to a much younger audience than anywhere in Montgomery.

The school was founded and is directed by Linda Klages, a native Cincinnati with more than 25 years of teaching experience. She is best known for her tenure at Summit Country Day School, where she served as Director of the Montessori program for 12 years. She is certified by the

American Montessori Society.

“In other large cities, Montessori programs are offered at a much younger age than in Cincinnati,” said Ms. Klages. “The average school will not take a child until they are at least 3 years old. This school recognizes that a child will benefit immensely with a Montessori education even at the young age of 18 months.”

“Both toddlers and our children in the 3-6 year old program thrive while reaching heightened intellectual and social achievements,” she said. “The children’s creativity, happiness, and love of learning



is evident in the classroom.”

School programs are comprised of both full day and half day classes. Programs will be offered throughout the summer months, with fall registration beginning February 25.

Ms. Klages will host a lecture presenting information about the Montessori philosophy and its impact on young children. The lecture will be March 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the school. For more information about the school or to register for summer and fall classes, call 234-5821.

Jordan Hall begins full-time fire/paramedic service with City

Jordan Hall has been appointed as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic for Montgomery, filling a vacancy from a previous retirement. Jordan was selected from 56 applicants in a testing process overseen by the Civil Service Commission.



Jordan Hall

Jordan was a part-time employee within the department, as well as

working at other area fire departments in a part-time capacity.

In addition to Ohio certification as a firefighter and a paramedic, he also is certified as a fire inspector. Jordan is finishing up a Bachelors degree in Fire Science at the University of Cincinnati.

Mayor Harbison elected chair of First Suburbs Consortium

Mayor Gerri Harbison was recently elected Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the First Suburbs Consortium of Southwest Ohio. First Suburbs is an association of elected and appointed officials representing



Mayor Harbison

mature, built out communities in the Greater Cincinnati area. The Consortium was formed in

2004 to provide an organizational structure for cooperative efforts to promote public policies and practices which protect, maintain and support redevelopment of the county’s ‘first ring’ suburbs.

Montgomery has been a strong supporter of the First Suburbs efforts since its inception.

Welcome SAS Comfort Shoes

SAS Comfort Shoes, owned and operated by Diane and Stu Roemke, has opened a second area store. The newest location is at 9917 Montgomery Road in the Montgomery Square Shopping Center,

Decorated as a turn of the century general store, the decor

gives a shopping experience reminiscent of bygone days when personalized service and quality products provided customers with a special value.

The Roemkes’ began their business with their well-established Springdale location.

Subcommittee mulls parks study for April recommendations

The subcommittee formed to further review and study the Leisure Services Management Inc. Parks and Recreation Study has conducted three public meetings. This subcommittee was created to develop recommendations for projects and improvements within the City’s park system and other public spaces.

Projects under consideration include capital improvements, service enhancements and the use of “green” technology. Items included in the Parks and Recreation Study were defined in 2007 during a series

of public meetings with residents, staff and other stakeholders that utilize the park system and recreation programming.

The recommendations of this subcommittee are anticipated to be completed by late April and forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission for its review and comment beginning as early as the group’s May 8 meeting.

For additional information, refer to the City’s website for subcommittee meeting notices, or to review the study completed by Leisure Services Management Inc. You may also contact Amber Morris, Recreation and Community Relations Director, or Bob Nikula Public Works Director at 891-2424.

Improvements coming for hospital entrance

The City of Montgomery is one step closer to completing safety improvements at the Montgomery Road entrance to Bethesda North Hospital, regarded as one of the busiest Montgomery Road intersections in the community.

In 2006, the City of Montgomery submitted an application for funding to the Ohio Governor's Highway Safety Office for up to \$60,000 as partial funding for improvements and intersection modifications. In 2007 the City received notice that the funding request was approved for construction funding in 2008. This approval was based on a review of the concept design and crash history between 2003 and 2005.

Since receiving funding approval from the State, the City has adopted legislation that

allows the City to complete all aspects of the project from advertising for bids through contract award, project inspection and contract administration. The project design includes modifications to the existing medians, installation of new narrow medians between the left turn and through lanes and the installation of new overhead guide signs just south of the intersection of Montgomery Road and Shakerdale Drive.

The improvements will provide improved sight distance through the realignment of left turn lanes. The project also includes additional guide signs for southbound Montgomery Road motorists that will provide additional information of the change in lane uses for Montgomery Road motorists between the Bethesda North Hospital intersection and

Pfeiffer Road. The project design includes traffic safety improvements, as well as a design that recognizes the importance of the vibrant and beautiful median system that has served this community very well since its installation. A contract award

recommendation for the improvements is anticipated for the March 18 City Council work session. If work begins on schedule, the project is expected to be completed by November 21.

For additional information on this project, contact Public Works Director Bob Nikula at 792-8311 or bnikula@ci.montgomery.oh.us

Montgomery Road medians: more than just pretty

The landscaped medians along Montgomery Road provide the community with more than just beautiful trees, plants and flowers. These medians also serve to improve safe travel for the thousands of motorists that utilize this major roadway corridor on a daily basis.

The presence of these medians along Montgomery Road

reduce the number of left turn conflict points by establishing consolidated access or "U-turn" points between Schoolhouse Lane and Pfeiffer Road. They also provide a physical barrier and separation that increases the distance between vehicles traveling in opposite directions.

A recent change along a number of median openings was the installation of "No U-turn" signs at seven locations along Montgomery Road between Schoolhouse Lane and Pfeiffer Road. These regulatory signs were placed only at locations that did not meet minimum sight distance requirements established in the Ohio Revised Code and at locations where the roadway was simply not wide enough to permit larger passenger vehicles cars to successfully make a U-turn.

Changes and improvements such as these sign installations, as well as other work to the City's infrastructure system, are thoroughly reviewed, coordinated and completed based on all applicable standards and guidelines found in City, state or federal guidelines. The goal of the projects is to improve safety for motorists and pedestrians along this portion of the Montgomery Road corridor.

For additional information on the Montgomery Road medians or U-turn signs, contact Public Works Director Bob Nikula at 792-8311 or bnikula@ci.montgomery.oh.us

Website allows 24-hour access to services

Since residents lead busy lives, often they may not have time available during the day to conduct business with the City. In order to make services more available after hours, Montgomery has developed ways for residents to access city services over the Internet.

To further improve communication, a subscription service is available so that residents can get up to the minute information regarding meeting reminders for the City's Boards, Commissions and Council, as well as meeting agendas. In addition, residents can subscribe to receive the *Montgomery Bulletin* by email

several days before it is delivered by the post office.

Terwilliger Lodge and Swaim Lodge also can be reserved online. Residents can reserve a lodge up to 12 months in advance. Securing the reservation is easy, convenient and secure!

Sign up for the latest recreation

offerings or purchase a pool membership when they are available online beginning on March 17. The website also offers opportunities for purchasing a commemorative tree, bench or paver stone regularly seen throughout Montgomery.

The Action Line service allows residents to ask questions, provide suggestions or report problems they find in the City. In addition, all Council members are available for contact through the Action Line.

All of these services and more are one click away at www.montgomeryohio.org.



Taxes due April 15: Tax office will help

Your Montgomery tax returns or your extension requests are due to the Tax Office on or before April 15. If you are requesting a Federal extension, forward a copy to the Montgomery Tax Office by mail, drop-off or by fax. The Tax Office fax number is (513) 891-2994. If you are mailing your return or a copy of your federal extension request, if your envelope is postmarked on or before April 15, your return or extension request will be considered to be "on time."

The City of Montgomery tax forms have been mailed. If you



feel you have received a form in error, please call (513) 891-2424 and ask for the Tax Office.

For any questions, call (513)

891-2424 and ask for the Tax Office, or visit our website at www.montgomeryohio.org and click on 'Tax Forms' on the home page.

Extended hours announced for help with local taxes

In addition to regular hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, the Tax Office will offer extended hours for the convenience of residents, using the following schedule:

Saturday, April 5
9 a.m. – noon

Tuesday, April 08
8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 12
9 a.m. – noon

Monday, April 14
8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Tuesday, April 15
8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

For assistance completing your tax return, bring your W-2 form(s), applicable Federal 1040 form and any supporting federal schedules with you. The Tax Office will prepare your local return without cost and no appointment is necessary. For your convenience, there is a locked container at the front desk of City Hall for an easy and safe drop-off of your forms and information.

Inaugural Montgomery Leadership Academy garners rave reviews!

After completion of the first four sessions, The Montgomery Citizens' Leadership Academy (MCLA) has met with great enthusiasm and is clearly living up to its billing as, "The Coolest Civics Class You'll Ever Take". Initially oversubscribed with 34 residents applying, The Academy, for purposes of maximizing the experience, was capped at 25 participants. The other 9 applicants were asked, and agreed, to defer until the 2009 MCLA class.



The sessions completed are, *Zen & the Art of Citizenship...*, *Montgomery, Our Town, USA...*, *Sycamore Schools: Reading, Writing and Test Scores?...* and *Homeland Safety and Security in Your Own Neighborhood*. Locations for The Academy have ranged from, City Hall to Montgomery Elementary School and the Homeland Security Regional Operations Center. MCLA faculty, to date, has been comprised of the Montgomery Mayor and City Council, City

Staff, Sycamore Community Schools' Superintendent, Adrienne James and her staff and guest lecturers such as best selling author, Peter Block.

The Montgomery Citizens' Leadership Academy is offered only once annually to residents eager to go beyond the surface and experience first hand the innermost workings of community operations. Some of the participant

comments have been quite revealing:

"Suddenly, you come to the startling realization that the 'they' in government is 'me.'"

"One of the greatest aspects of The Academy may not have been by design — the opportunity to meet and interact with our neighbors who share a common love of the City of Montgomery."

"In creating the Montgomery

Citizens' Leadership Academy, Montgomery city officials have taken a great step in establishing a 2-way dialogue with the residents of our city. It's a great program—three cheers!"

To learn more about The Montgomery Citizens' Leadership Academy, or to sign up for MCLA 2009, contact Ray Kingsbury, Director of Citizen Engagement, at 792.8359.

DID YOU KNOW?

Misplaced your Federal tax forms? Can't find the Federal Schedule you need to fill out and/or you're not sure how to complete the form? You can have many questions answered and find the pertinent Federal Forms by accessing the IRS website; log onto www.irs.gov. State of Ohio tax forms and questions can be answered by logging onto www.taxohio.gov.

You can also obtain IRS and State of Ohio filing documents directly through our website at www.montgomeryohio.org. Just point and click onto 'Resident', click on 'Tax Information' and then click onto 'Tax Forms'. If you have to file an additional return with a neighboring city, you can also access their websites. Need another link? Please call us with any additional websites that would benefit the city's residents.

Collections resume for Household Hazards

If your home is like most others, a variety of cleaners, solvents and other materials are present that are considered hazardous materials that are potentially harmful to humans or the environment if improperly stored or discarded.



Acceptable Items
paint, pesticides, fertilizers, solvents, thinners, lawn pool chemicals, cleaners, household or auto batteries, prescription drugs, fire extinguishers, propane tanks, mercury, fluorescent bulbs, driveway sealer, gasoline, antifreeze, motor oil, and thermostats.

Unacceptable Items
radioactive materials, medical waste, explosive/ammunition, gun powder, heating oil tanks, tires, yardwaste, smoke alarms, garbage, roofing materials, appliances, computers/electronics and fuel tanks.

For more information, call Hamilton County Environmental Services at 946-7700 or visit www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org.

After a winter break, items listed can again be dropped off now through the end of October at Environmental Enterprises, Inc., on Spring Grove or Cincinnati Dayton Road for environmentally sound disposal.

Household Hazardous Drop-off Locations

Environmental Enterprises, Inc.
4650 Spring Grove Avenue
Tuesdays: 2 - 6 p.m.
Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Environmental Enterprises, Inc.
10163 Cincinnati-Dayton Road
Wednesdays: 2 - 6 p.m.

Colossal Colon event to help combat colorectal cancer

This March, the TriHealth Fitness & Health Pavilion offers residents a program to combat colorectal cancer during a four-day colorectal cancer symposium filled with free educational events and activities.

lectures on various topics pertaining to colorectal health.

For more information about these events, call Donna Pike at 254-9625, or Lindy Neal at 985-6732. For more information about the Colossal Colon, visit www.colossalcolon.com.

The event, sponsored by Vantage Oncology, The American Cancer Society & TriHealth, centers on a visit from “Coco” the Colossal Colon®. This 40-foot by four-foot model of the human colon is designed to help educate visitors about colorectal cancer and other diseases of the colon, such as Crohn’s disease, diverticulosis, ulcerative colitis, hemorrhoids, and cancerous and non-cancerous polyps.



The event also includes a two-day public health fair on Saturday, March 15, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, March 16, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This free event will feature booths from health care services and businesses that have a special interest in colorectal health plus free physician

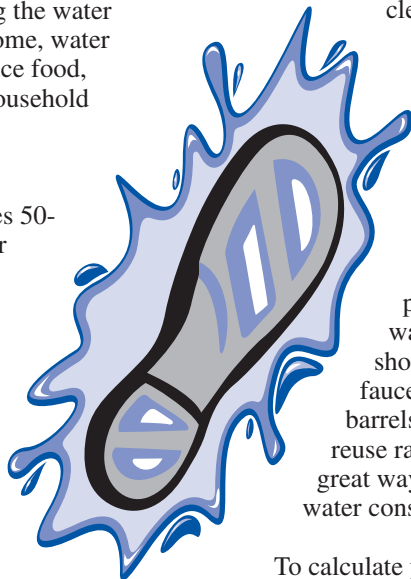
How big is your “water footprint”?

According to H2O Conserve, the average American’s overall “water footprint” is 1,189 gallons of water per day, including the water used in the home, water used to produce food, energy and household products.

The average American uses 50-70 gallons per day just on indoor household uses.

You can take simple steps to reduce the amount of water you and your family use by taking shorter showers, using the dishwasher and

clothes washer for only full loads, or turning off the water while brushing your teeth, washing your hands or cleaning vegetables.



Fixing a leaky faucet can save 200 gallons of water a month! Insulating water pipes, installing water saving shower heads and faucets and using rain barrels to capture and reuse rain water are all great ways to reduce your water consumption.

To calculate your “water footprint” and learn about other great ways to conserve water log onto this address: <http://www.h2oconserve.org>

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

Young talent sought in annual program

Winners named in Young Artist Competition

The winners of the 21st Annual Blue Ash/Montgomery Young Artist Competition were announced at the Orchestra's Holiday Concert in December 2007. Twenty-three talented young artists vied for prizes this year, playing instruments ranging from violin to tuba, marimba and harp. With the talent pool of young musicians growing ever more impressive, the Orchestra this year decided to establish competition categories with three separate instrumental divisions: 1) Strings (violin, viola, cello, double-bass) 2) Keyboard (piano, harpsichord, organ, etc.) and 3) Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion, Guitar and Harp, plus a category for musicians 13 and under, regardless of the instrument they play.

Violinist Kaori Matsui, 16, was the first place winner in the Strings category while 15-year-old cellist Coleman Itzkoff took second place. Ms. Matsui, currently concertmaster of the Starling Chamber Orchestra, began her study of the violin in Japan at the age of 5. On January 26 she was a featured performer on the NPR show, *From the Top*, performing Henryk Wieniawski's Polonaise Brillante No.2 in A major,



Kaori Matsui

Op.21, accompanied by Christopher O'Riley. Mr. Itzkoff plays principal cello for both the Starling Chamber Orchestra and the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra, and was also a featured soloist for *From the Top* in June 2007.

In the Keyboard category two 16-year-olds took top honors, with Lexington, Kentucky native Connie Wu in first place and Mt. Healthy resident Aaron Southworth in second. Ms. Wu, who was a second place winner two years ago, won a Gold Medal in the Young Artist Division of the World Piano Competition in 2005, one of many awards she has garnered in the last few years. Mr. Southworth, who is home-schooled, has been studying piano, most recently with John



Tracy Wong

Toedtman, for seven years.

Talk about variety – in the “Other” category we have two first place winners – marimba player Christian Smith and harpist Mackenzie Hammel. A senior at Walnut Hills, Mr. Smith plays in the school's Advanced Steel Drum Band, the Marching Band, Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble and Orchestra. This academic year he received a National Merit Letter of Commendation and an AP Scholar Award. Ms. Hammel, a junior at Lakota West, began studying harp at age 5 after falling in love with it when she heard it first played at a CSO Lollipops concert. In July, 2008, Mackenzie will perform in a Focus on Youth concert at the 10th World Harp Congress in Amsterdam, Netherlands. This event, held every three years, is the largest gathering of harpists in the world. She is one of 35 under age-22 harpists selected, from 30 countries.

In the 13-and-under category we again have a tie for first place – 12-year-old pianist Tracy Wong and another pianist, 13-year-old Hunter Wade. Despite their youth, they have an impressive list of achievements to their names. Mr. Wade performed at Carnegie Hall in both 2006 and 2007 as a Silver Medalist winner in the World Piano Competition. With his avid interest and experiences in

composition and music theory, Hunter has begun studying music composition and theory at CCM with Dr. Shawn Okpebholo. Ms. Wong successfully auditioned for the NPR program *From The Top* in 2006. She performed her first solo recital at age 11 and made her orchestral debut in 2007 performing the complete Beethoven Concerto No.1 with the St. Petersburg State Symphony Orchestra in Russia. She has passed the auditions for the International e-Piano Junior Competition and the Gina Bachauer International Junior Piano Competition and has been invited to take part in the Disklavier/Video Recording at Toronto, Canada and New York in 2008.

The Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Orchestra, sponsor of the Blue Ash/Montgomery Young Artist Competition, began its 2008 Concert Season with a Valentine's Concert at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. Hunter Wade was a featured soloist at this concert. All first place winners will perform with the Orchestra during the 2008 season. Second place winners will perform with the Blue Ash Youth Symphony Orchestra during its season. All Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Orchestra concerts are free to the public.

For more information visit www.bamsso.org or call Susan Pace, Business Manager, Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Orchestra, at (513) 232-0949.

Residents of Blue Ash, Montgomery and surrounding communities may support the Orchestra through membership in the Friends of the Symphony or the Symphony Guild, which promotes cultural and educational projects and plans social and fund raising events.

Hats Off...



to members of the Beautification & Tree Commission that worked collaboratively with City staff to conduct a very successful Emerald Ash Workshop in December that resulted (by popular demand) in the hosting of a second EAB workshop in February. Thanks to their efforts, these two programs provided a unique opportunity for our community members to obtain information about this specific, tree related problem. Current members of this leadership team are Jodi Keith, Lee Levy, Renie Taylor, Jane Hohn, Judy Feltner and Helen Grimes.

A grateful “thank you” is extended to all these volunteers for their time and dedication to this valuable program.

Photo competition deadline fast approaching



"Frozen Goal" by photographer Jim Barrett, was among the winning photographs in the 2007 Photography Competition.

The deadline to submit photos for Montgomery's 21st Photo Competition is March 7. This year's Reception and Exhibit are scheduled for Sunday, March 16, from 1 - 4 p.m. in the Universalist Church.

A nationally published and exhibited photographer, Corson will discuss various aspects of creating a good photograph. Registration deadline is March 7.

The Arts Commission is also sponsoring a "Master Class for Amateur Photographers," featuring Corson Hirschfeld, the judge of the photo

For information about either of these events, visit www.MontgomeryOhio.org, refer to the February *Montgomery Bulletin* or call 792-8329.

Five opportunities exist on Montgomery's leadership teams

The Parks & Recreation Commission and the Landmarks Commission are in need of a few more dedicated volunteers to complete their leadership teams.

good volunteer match for your personal interests and background is to attend sample meetings as a guest. For more information, contact Joyce Yock at 792-8329.

Meeting on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m., members of Parks & Recreation are focusing their attention on the City's Park Master Plan, pool issues, signage for walking trails and playground inspection training. Monthly meeting locations vary for this team to better acquaint the members with the City's parks and lodges. (Please note a date change for the March meeting. It is scheduled for March 18, at 6:30 p.m. in Terwilliger Lodge).

Members of the Landmarks Commission recently focused their attention on additions to two landmark buildings and are currently working on guidelines for street furniture in the Heritage District. This leadership team meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in City Hall.

The best way to learn more about Montgomery's boards and commissions while ensuring a

Sights and sounds of Fine Arts fill City Hall



Approximately 65 community members attended the February 10, Fine Arts Sampler Weekend event sponsored by the Arts Commission. While some folks lingered at the exhibit of 17 original Ansel Adams exhibited photographs, others were captured by the musical sounds provided by the Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Orchestra trio.

March & April Volunteer Opportunities

- **Service Department Recycling Project** *Students & Adults*
Saturday, March 15 • 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
7315 Cornell Road
- **Service Department Assistants** *Adults*
Monday - Friday • Flexible scheduling
7315 Cornell Road
Provide "hands on" assistance for a variety of indoor/outdoor projects.
- **Recreation Department Chaperones** *Students & Adults*
Spring Break-A-Way
March 24 - 28 • 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
See article on page 10
- **Bastille Day Event Committee** *Adults*
Second Monday of each month (March-August) • 7 p.m.
City Hall
Share your creative ideas and "hands on" assistance for the July 12 event.
Diaper Derby Coordinator
Event Set-Up Coordinator
- **Basket Planting Project** *Adults*
April 14 & 15 • 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Service Department Building (7315 Cornell Rd.)
"Dig in" to help plant 240 hanging baskets for our streetscape.
- **Arbor Day "Bag & Tag" Seedling Project**
Thursday, April 24 • 4 - 6 p.m.
Service Department Building (7315 Cornell Rd.)



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

Parks & Recreation Programs

HIGHLIGHTS OF OFFERINGS FROM MONTGOMERY PARKS & RECREATION

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

Young Rembrandt's Spring Drawing

Ages 3-6
Wednesdays; April 9-May 14;
4:15-5:00 pm; Annex Building
(10115 Montgomery Road)
Butterflies are all the rage at the start of our spring session. We follow with a birdhouse,



complete with a baby bird. Next the ants come marching in and we create the complex village they live in. Bold

color flowers and kites that allow us to discover how triangles and lines create a wonderful pattern in which to color. Some of the concepts that we'll work on, other than the skills of drawing and coloring, are: fine motor skills, focus, listening, staying on task, spatial organization and patience. *Cost: \$67. All materials are provided (Min. 10/ Max. 20)*

Young Rembrandt's Cartoon Animated Drawing

Ages 6 to 13 years
Wednesdays; April 9-May 14;
5-6 pm; Annex Building (10115
Montgomery Road)

We'll draw cartoons that illustrate what our lunch may experience if it had feelings, how our favorite food would act if it had human characteristics and a sequence of a hungry animal gulping up the food in front of them....SLURP!
Cost: \$67. All materials are provided (Min. 10/ Max. 20)



Follow the Sign, Hands Above the Rest American Sign Language Instruction

Ages 6-12
Mondays; March 10 to April
21; 5-6 pm; Swaim Lodge
(corner of Cooper & Zig Zag
Roads) (no class March 24)
You'll be encouraged to "talk" to your friends, move around, make noise, and have big fun. You and your friends can communicate in school and at home without ever saying a word for anyone to



hear. It's like having your own secret code. We play games, sign your favorite songs, and do activities all while learning the signs as we go. Students of all ages love this class. Sign-ups will be online beginning March 3 or in person at City Hall, 10101 Montgomery Road. *Cost: \$60 (\$65NR) (Min. 6/ Max. 20)*

SignMania Sign Language Series for EVERYONE

Families
Tuesdays; March 11 to April
22; 7-8 pm; Annex Building
(10115 Montgomery Road) (no
class on March 25)

Learning a new language has never been this fun... All while learning Sign Language. You'll be having such a great time you won't even realize you're learning something new. This class is offered in six one-hour sessions. Participants will learn conversational signing through games, activities and music. This highly interactive, applicable approach helps you understand and retain the signs you learn. ASL signs will be taught using ASL grammar and put in English word order (PSE). *Cost: \$110/family (\$120NR/family) (a family is 2 adults and up to four kids)*

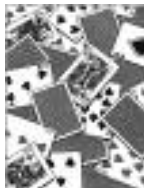
Signs to Go Interactive Sign Language Workshop

Watch for date and time in the April bulletin and online at www.montgomeryohio.org

This fun and interactive workshop is a perfect introduction to signing with hearing babies and toddlers. In this class, participants learn how signing benefits young children, including enhancing verbal communication reducing frustration and behavioral problems, and easing separation anxiety. Participants will learn how to include signing meaningfully with children by enhancing verbal interactions with sign during the course of daily routines, playtime and music. Participants learn and practice approximately 50 signs during the course of various activities. "Signs To Go" Are available on our website to download to your iPod or any MP4 player, or you can purchase a digital video key chain loaded with all the signs you learned from the workshop.

Beginning and Intermediate Bridge

Ages 17 and up
Tuesdays; April 22-May 27;
6-7:30 pm (Beginning),
7:30-9 pm (Intermediate);
Twin Lakes at Montgomery
Activity Center Card Room
(9840 Montgomery Road)
Bridge 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. *Cost: \$75 resident (\$80NR) for a 6-week session*



Jump on Board Spring Break is Moving Out!

Monday-Friday; March 24-28;
8:30-5:30 pm; Meet at the
Annex Building (10115
Montgomery Road)

We'll explore different modes of transportation: Horses, paddleboats, railroads and jets are just a few of the things we'll encounter. So grab a friend, pack a lunch and hop on board as we travel down the highway each day bringing new and exciting adventures!

Dress appropriately for weather and walking.
Cost: \$45 per day or \$200 per week (\$50NR per day or \$225NR per week)
Chaperones are needed. Call 792-8348 to help.

- March 24:** Kentucky Horsepark in Lexington
- March 25:** Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton
- March 26:** Underground Railroad and Cincinnati Fire Museum
- March 27:** Newport Aquarium and B&B Riverboats in Cincinnati
- March 28:** Horseback Riding at Salt Creek Ranch in Metamora

Final Sensory Sunday Sunday, March 16; 4:45-7:30 pm; Terwilliger Lodge in Dulle Park

Be mesmerized with French Jazz, award-winning ethnic cuisine and contemplative and vibrant abstract portraits and paintings. A few tickets remain for this final event in this ever-popular series. Sylvain Acher & Friends perform; Jean Robert Restaurant Group offers taste temptations; Bruno and Anna Zabaglio offer Artistic Portraits and Paintings. *Cost: \$28 per ticket to include food, wine, jazz music and art!*

Hear Jazz



Taste Treats



See Stuff



Tummy Tucks\PILATES

Tuesdays and Thursdays; March 18-May 8 (16 classes); 6-7 pm; Annex Building
This class is geared toward use of core body muscles: abdominal, obliques, back, and gluteals, to get effective results in your mid-section. The workout gets results in all problem places by working on lengthening of the spine, proper alignment and posture, and a strong center to give a slimmer profile. Classes taught by Tri-Health certified instructor. Some equipment provided. Register at Montgomery City Hall by March 14. *Cost \$65 (\$70NR) (Min. 12/Max. 20)*

20/20/20 Boomer Style

Tuesdays and Thursdays; March 18-May 8 (16 classes); 9-10 am; Annex Building
This class offers light cardiovascular exercises, light strength training, and light stretching for 20 minutes each. The instructor has experience in teaching to people over 50, and 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 Montgomery City Hall by March 14. *Cost \$65 (\$70NR) (Min. 12/Max. 20)*

Latin Dance Aerobics

Thursdays; March 20-May 8 (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 Montgomery City Hall or online by March 14. *Cost \$40 (\$45NR) (Min. 10/Max. 20)*

Taekwondo Lessons

Mondays and 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. Teacher Tom Hardy 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 \$35/month (\$40/monthNR)*



Makos swim team sign ups start March 17

For all returning Makos, registrations for the limited openings on the team begin on March 17. (*Registration for new Makos begins March 31.*) The team is focused on building stronger swimmers with great teamwork skills, an attitude of dedication and an interest in having fun while staying fit!

A maximum of 30 kids per age division may join the 2008 Montgomery Makos Swim Team. Cost is \$95 for the first swimmer and \$75 for additional swimmers in the family. A pool membership is required for registration.

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.

This year, a \$75 service deposit is required at registration. The operation of a swim team requires parent involvement throughout the season. In order to be able to run meets safely and efficiently, numerous positions must be staffed. Mako parents who serve in one of these positions at a minimum of 4 meets and attend the parent informational meeting on April 8 will be refunded the service



deposit. The balance of the deposit money will be used to pay pool staff to fill positions not staffed by parent volunteers.

This system is designed to thank the parents that do the work for the team and still find a way to cover all the necessary

positions at meets for parents who cannot make the commitment.

Summer practices are comprised of one-hour sessions scheduled between 8:30-11 a.m., based on age and skills. Practices are held from June 4

to July 25 starting with Meet the Coaches nights to welcome all team members and assess swimming abilities. Team schedules, meet service registration and general rules and expectations will be covered at the mandatory an April 8 parent meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Terwilliger Lodge in Dulle Park. Sign ups for the meet positions will be on a first come basis at the parent meeting. One parent from each family is required to sign up to work a minimum of four meets.

A parent's packet will be available at www.montgomeryohio.org. For more information about the swim team, call City Hall at 891-2424.

Pool memberships available March 17

Montgomery Pool memberships go on sale at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, March 17. Get in early for some extra benefits and to secure your spot poolside for 101 days of fun in the sun. With this year's resident family rate at \$245, for a family of four that comes to just 60 cents each day of cool relief making great memories and building lifelong skills! As always, members also receive discount rates on swim lessons

and, if you register before May 1, you will receive five free guest passes to invite a neighbor or a friend as a guest.

In appreciation for past patronage, any 2007 membership renewal completed by May 1, will be entered into a drawing for one of five free memberships!

Membership rates and details about hours of operation, swim

lessons, swim team and pool rentals are available online at www.montgomeryohio.org. Registration forms will be mailed to all Montgomery households and businesses in early March. Also, online registration is available for residents. There is a limited number of non-resident passes available so both business and non-resident memberships must be purchased at City hall starting March 17.

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Todd Steinbrink

Clerk of Council
Susan Hamm

City Manager
Cheryl A. Hilvert

All Around Town

MWC Antiques Show & Sale to be 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 more information, call (513) 852-1901.

Kiwanis Club to host egg hunt on March 22

The annual Montgomery Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, March 22, at Montgomery Park (*corner*

of Montgomery Road and School House Lane).

Kiwanis members will hide 864 plastic eggs filled with jelly beans in the grassy field. In 150 of the eggs will be prizes containing a wrapped piece of chocolate candy instead of jelly beans. Children finding a prize egg will receive a stuffed bunny when they turn in the candy wrapper.



The field will be divided into three age groups for children ages 1-3, 4-6 and 7-9. At exactly 10 a.m., the ropes will drop to begin the hunt. Each person entering the park will also be given a numbered ticket for a drawing at the end of the event for any unclaimed stuffed bunnies. The tickets will also be drawn for one of two grand prizes, each of which is a large stuffed bunny.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

MARCH • MARCH • MARCH • MARCH • MARCH

2	Sensory Sunday (<i>reservations required</i>)	Terwilliger Lodge	5 pm
3	Arts Commission	City Hall	5 pm
3	Planning Commission	City Hall	7:30 pm
5	Council Business Session	City Hall	7 pm
10	Beautification Commission	City Hall	9 am
11	Environmental Advisory Commission	City Hall	4:30 pm
12	Landmarks Commission	City Hall	7 pm
15	Cardboard Recycling	7315 Cornell Road	10 am - 1 pm
16	Sensory Sunday (<i>reservations required</i>)	Terwilliger Lodge	5 pm
16	MWC Antiques Show and Sale	Sycamore HS	9 am-4 pm
17	Pool Reg./Swim Team sign ups begin	City Hall	7:30 am
17	Planning Commission	City Hall	7:30 pm
18	Parks and Recreation Commission	Terwilliger Lodge	6:30 pm
18	Parks Study Subcommittee	Terwilliger Lodge	5:30 pm
18	Sister Cities Commission	City Hall	7 pm
19	Council Work Session	City Hall	7 pm
22	Kiwanis Egg Hunt	Montgomery Park	10 am
24	Sycamore Schools spring break begins		
24	Rec. Dept. Spring Break Camp Week begins		
25	Board of Zoning Appeals	City Hall	7 pm