

November 2008

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Montgomery selected for "Open City Hall"

When the Alliance for Innovation launches a national Internet forum in November, only eight communities will be featured.

Montgomery is one of them. In a three month pilot of a new concept called Open City Hall, citizens will be invited to discuss topics of interest. The discussion will provide input directly to the Mayor, City Council and Administration.

Beginning November 1, the first topic up for discussion will be energy conservation. Participants wanting to join in the discussion will be asked for a name, their email and home address with their

first posting in the discussion. The information will be used to validate email addresses and to identify those living in or near Montgomery so their statements can be directed to City leaders. All information is held in strict confidence and will be used only for purposes of the national discussion forum.



To read how other residents are saving energy, as well as their suggestions for citywide conservation measures, visit www.montgomeryohio.org/peak.htm.

A three month pilot forum is being undertaken by Peak Democracy, a non-partisan company whose mission is to broaden civic

engagement.

Montgomery's participation in the Open City Hall forum is in line with the City's Strategic Plan initiatives to "foster 2-way dialogue between the City and the Community." In support of the initiative, residents are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to engage Montgomery's leadership in the on-line public conversation.

City officials will consider input from this forum along with all other traditional channels for communication.

New resource opens for new Montgomery residents

The City of Montgomery has a new on-line information source to provide new residents with a variety of useful information to aid in the process of moving in, getting connected and feeling a part of their new community.

New or newer residents to the community can log on to www.montgomeryohio.org and click "new resident" on the left side of the page to access information on area schools and parks, the business community, volunteer opportunities, civic organizations, faith-based

institutions, the City's history and local government services. The content provides links and information for ways to engage in the community, take advantage of local services and find a niche in Montgomery based on their interests and skills.

The resources available include a map outlining the boundaries of the community and indicating the locations of parks, schools and City buildings. In addition, other useful information is available to help with the basics of setting up a home.

Unlimited yard waste collection starts Nov. 3

Beginning November 3, residents will have unlimited pick up of yard waste, including leaves. The pickup service will occur on each resident's normal trash day through December 5. While the unlimited service is being offered, yard waste stickers will not be required. After December 5, yard waste collection will stop until March.

■ Leaves and yard waste must be placed in cans or paper yard waste bags.

■ Branches must be bundled and no longer than 4 feet in length and no more than 50 pounds in weight.

■ Do NOT put yard waste or leaves in plastic bags or in piles at the curb.

Memorial event to honor 1999 tornado victims

April 9, 2009, will mark the tenth anniversary of the tragic day four local residents were killed when an early morning tornado ripped through the area. An event is being planned to honor their memory and recognize the significant losses hundreds also endured throughout the community.

The City of Montgomery is gathering photos, stories, or memorial items to consider for use in the commemorative ceremony. Individuals interested in speaking or sharing their thoughts and memories from that day should contact Cindy Rains at the Montgomery Police Department at 513-985-

“It is fitting and proper that we recognize this anniversary in our history where so many members of our community suffered loss.”

— *Gerri Harbison*
Montgomery Mayor

1601. The collection phase of the effort is expected to end December 31 so that event planning can begin.

The memorial’s planning committee hopes to include a variety of sources to create an appropriate commemorative event in recognition of this significant event, regarded by many as the single worst disaster to occur in Montgomery.

“It is fitting and proper that we recognize this anniversary in our history where so many members of our community suffered loss,” said Montgomery Mayor Gerri

Harbison. “We believe a respectful ceremony and memorial dedication is the best manner in which to honor those who were killed on that tragic day and to celebrate with those who have persevered. It is our hope that those who were involved with the tornado in some manner will contact us, so we may create a fitting, community-involved event to honor and reflect on this solemn occasion.”

The devastating tornado that occurred on April 9, 1999, is considered by many to be the worst disaster to take place in Montgomery. On that day, a quarter mile wide F4 tornado with straight-line winds touched down creating a 10 mile long pathway through Montgomery and took out many homes, businesses, roadways and utilities in its path.

The tornado was part of a 30 hour event which started in Nebraska, went through Iowa and Missouri and then gained enough momentum to hit ground again in Indiana, Ohio and Virginia, causing \$82 million in damages. The weather system spawned 54 tornadoes and caused six fatalities, including the four victims killed locally.

COUNCIL CORNER

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

Pending Legislation

- An ordinance amending portions of Chapter 151 of the Code of Ordinances governing signs (*3rd Reading*)
- An ordinance to make appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Montgomery, State of Ohio, During the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009 (*2nd Reading*)
- An ordinance accepting land rights to be dedicated to a public access road (*2nd Reading*)

New Legislation

- A resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Hamilton County Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor
- A resolution accepting a bid and authorizing the City Manager to enter

into a contract with Gudenkauf Corporation for the 2008 Fiber Optic Line Project

- A resolution accepting a bid and

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

Recent Council Action

OCTOBER 1 BUSINESS SESSION

Approved Legislation

- **Resolution No. 27, 2008:** A resolution correcting Resolution No. 25, 2008 awarding a contract to the Gertz Company for the 2008 Curb Replacement Project (*Passed 7-0*)
- **Resolution No. 28, 2008:** A resolution authorizing real estate tax assessments for Hamilton County Storm Water District administrative fees and rescinding Resolution No. 40, 2004 (*Passed 7-0*)

- **Ordinance No. 14, 2008:** An ordinance amending the Schedule of Municipal Compensation (*Passed 7-0*)

- **Ordinance No. 15, 2008:** An ordinance amending and adopting the City’s Property Maintenance Code (*Passed 7-0*) *This legislation can be reviewed on the City’s website at www.montgomeryohio.org.*

Pending Legislation

- An ordinance amending portions of

Chapter 151 of the Code of Ordinances governing signs (*Passed 2nd Reading, 7-0*)

- An ordinance to make appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Montgomery during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009 (*Passed 1st Reading, 7-0*)

- An ordinance accepting land rights to be dedicated to a public access road (*Passed 1st Reading 7-0*)

Council member's thoughts on feeling "powerless"



This month's message
by Council Member
Mark Combs

Seven days. Seven hours. Twenty minutes. For one who has lived in the 'Winds' for more than 25 years, this was a long time to be without electric power. By the end of the week, my friend and long-time 'Winds' resident, Denny Billman, said it best. He didn't like to complain, but he was really getting tired of living in 'Little House on the Prairie.'

The velocity of September 14th windstorm far exceeded the weather forecasts and took many of us by surprise. As it swept northward across several states, it wreaked havoc that was eerily similar to a tornado. When I connected with family and friends, I learned of outages in Columbus and Pittsburgh as they too were socked by 75-80 M.P.H. winds.

Even before the high winds subsided, I was on my cell telephone with Gerri Harbison, our mayor, and Cheryl Hilvert, our city manager, only to learn that our police and fire departments were already

engaged in solutions. Staff was already working on plans to expand the limb collection program as the scope of the damage became evident. Within the first 24 hours, all Montgomery streets were cleared of trees and major limbs.

Stop signs were quickly posted on all major city streets to ease confusion for motorists when traffic signals were without power. The city was up and running on its natural gas generator in order to maintain essential communications. Two city crews began the task of limb collection on Monday morning. A third chipper was rented, and our city had three crews working six days per week, 12 hours per day to clean up limbs. Contract crews were later hired when the magnitude of the task became clear. In the face of this widespread damage, the cleanup efforts went much better than expected thanks in large part to the efforts of our public works director, Bob Nikula and our tireless employees in the Public Works Department.

The collection of storm debris other than limbs and branches (leaves) turned out to be the

biggest area of confusion, which was fueled in part by erroneous information that appeared in the newspaper. The City has equipment to collect and chip branches and limbs. The City focuses on branch and limb collection not only because this is the equipment it has, but to address the safety hazard that is posed by large limbs on or near our roadways. A second safety consideration was the fire hazard posed by accumulations of limbs and branches, especially with the dry conditions. The city also recognized the practical difficulties that residents face in disposing of limbs and branches under the normal yard waste program that requires they be cut and bundled.

It is important to note that the City does not have equipment to collect leaves nor a location to dispose of them. This is the work that is contracted for by the City with Rumpke. Efforts to negotiate additional leaf collections with Rumpke were unsuccessful, because Rumpke was unable to accommodate the widespread demand posed by the windstorm damage. I received calls, letters, and emails from residents indicating their displeasure with the city's

response to leaf collection and expressing their opinion that the city missed an opportunity to serve the needs of residents. Although the city's response to this issue was unsatisfactory to some, their constructive comments will serve as a basis for future discussions as we revisit the issue.

To this point, I have not mentioned Duke Energy. While communications from Duke were at times inconsistent (something I can personally attest to), Duke employees in the field worked tirelessly to restore power under overwhelming circumstances. Within eight days, over 700,000 customers had their power restored. I regard that as remarkable.

Although some residents inappropriately vented their frustrations with Duke Energy on city staff or made unreasonable demands for services, I am grateful for the things I experienced during that 'powerless' week. There were many quiet acts of concern: the increased police patrols I observed while walking through the neighborhood; the cooperation and goodwill as neighbors helped one another; seeing the mayor and others driving through the neighborhood just to keep in touch; and those special calls from family and friends to see if there was anything they could do to help. Our city did not experience a weather-related death. We enjoyed superb weather in the days that followed the windstorm. And there were opportunities for relaxed conversation, free from the distractions of the computer and television. And I didn't have to watch the Bengals implode, which is a blessing in and of itself!

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

New legislation offers chance to list emergency contact information with license

Legislation has recently been enacted by Ohio to create a voluntary program allowing those with a valid Ohio driver license, commercial driver license, temporary permit or identification card to provide two emergency contacts to the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The emergency contact information would be used by law enforcement in the event an individual involved in an emergency

situation or is otherwise unable to communicate. Law enforcement will use the information to notify these emergency contacts.

Emergency contact information can be submitted online at www.bmv.ohio.gov or via the Next of Kin form (BMV #2437) available at any Deputy Registrar. Persons under the age of 18 can participate, but one of the emergency contacts must be a

parent or legal guardian. Once registered, emergency contact information can be changed at any time on the BMV website or by re-submitting a new Next of Kin form.

Under the new legislation, Next of Kin information is not a public record and is available only to authorized law enforcement and BMV personnel.

For more information about the new Next of Kin Registration System, visit www.bmv.ohio.gov.

A lesson well learned: BE PREPARED

The recent wind storm impacted every resident in some way, some more than others. The damage that resulted from the hurricane force winds comprised the immediate threat and was the focus of emergency personnel and city crews. The resulting power outages proved to be a long-term challenge for many residents, as well as City officials. Weeks after the storm, the City continued to address the aftermath by picking up debris and repairing damage to public areas and facilities.

Now that most issues from the storm have been addressed, residents and city officials should look upon the event as a reminder of just how vulnerable the City is to disaster. Since the storm involved wind only, had the weather system included heavy rains, the event would have been far worse.

Each resident and each City employee should consider the event as a rehearsal of sorts to events which could be far more severe or long-lasting. Because the event was so severe and widespread, many residents were forced to endure days without power, absence of communication, lack of gasoline (*since pumps require electricity to operate*), and — in some cases — a lack of readily available food or medication. In some local communities, even potable drinking water was unavailable.

The Boy Scout's motto is "Be Prepared." It is a motto worthy of attention by each resident in today's uncertain world. Being prepared for an emergency—whether as a local government or as a citizen—takes advanced planning. Reacting to an emergency situation without proper preparation makes it almost impossible to address basic needs.

Popular literature on disaster preparedness states that



individuals need to be capable of being self-sustaining for a minimum of three days. Such advice is common in areas prone to hurricanes where it is reported that individuals who remain in their homes should expect to take care of their needs for several days after the storm has passed. Likewise, local governments plan to be self-sufficient for a minimum of three days, since there is no guarantee of additional support from state and federal governments for at least 72 hours after a disaster has struck.

Government role in the aftermath of disaster

The role of local government in a disaster is twofold—response and recovery. Response includes immediate work performed by police, fire and public works personnel that include rescuing individuals, maintaining law and order, opening of roadways and securing areas that are not safe. Additionally, in disasters where people are displaced from their homes, local governments often work through partners in the private sector such as the American Red Cross and various faith based organizations.

Recovery efforts involve focusing on rebuilding infrastructure once the direct dangers of the disaster have passed. The recovery phase may take months or even years for completion. Additionally, local government works to return the community back to pre-disaster status, as normal operations continue for those not impacted by the disaster.

Citizen preparation is key to disaster situations

The role of the citizen is to plan ahead for a disaster by creating a plan of how they can be self-sufficient for a minimum of three days or longer. This plan should be an "all-hazards" plan that can adapt to warm or cold weather, sheltering in place or evacuation if ordered. A supply of food, water, batteries, a transistor radio, flashlights, medications, and other personal necessities should be readily available to sustain each family. An electrical generator should be considered, especially if someone in a home has special needs requiring a constant supply of electricity, such as an oxygen producing device. Part of any plan should involve

checking on family and neighbors to ensure their well-being and safety.

Resources for better disaster planning at home

An excellent source of information on how to prepare for a disaster situation is available at www.ready.gov provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This site provides general information, as well as special considerations for the elderly and for pets.

Montgomery has a plan to address most disasters

The City of Montgomery has a working disaster plan that has served the community well in a number of situations. The "all-hazard" approach of the disaster plan makes the plan adaptable to many different scenarios and is the nationally-recognized approach to disaster planning. The City's employees have received training in the National Incident Management System provided by the federal government and works closely with other communities and the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency.

Additionally, City staff annually participates in an exercise that tests the disaster plan. All this assists the City in being prepared to handle emergencies and disasters as the need arises.

Being prepared as a city or as a household provides the peace of mind that can make life a little easier during a situation such as the recent wind storm.

Each resident is urged to take the time to plan and gather the needed supplies required during an emergency. When planning, consider being self-sufficient for at least 72-hours without power or any type of regular service or communications. Such planning will help each family during a disaster situation.

Family fun with something for everyone!

Holiday in the Village planned December 6

The holiday season is fast approaching. For those who typically are late to get into the spirit, the December 6 Holiday in the Village may help jumpstart the seasonal joy.

The City of Montgomery has partnered with Ohio National Financial Services, Twin Lakes of Montgomery and Bethesda North Hospital for a spectacular and festive series of holiday events designed to motivate residents to share their holiday spirit with others.

Here's a run-down of all that will happen during the annual Holiday in the Village Celebration:

Holiday in the Village Tree Lighting

Saturday, December 6 • 5 to 8 pm
Downtown Montgomery Historic District
Festival of Trees Location One

Share in the cheer of a classic holiday season with carolers, Santa and his live reindeer friends, carriage rides, Mrs. Claus crafting and a heralding brass ensemble as guests celebrate in the Montgomery tradition of the *Holiday in the Village Tree Lighting Ceremony* at 5:30 p.m.

Watch as the lights along Montgomery Road add a splash and sparkle of twinkling white throughout the streets for a wrapping of winter warmth. Bring the family through the Universalist Church to view the local art talent in the coloring contest and create your own winter craft with Mrs. Claus or write your letter to Santa and send it directly to the North Pole. Free holiday horse drawn wagon rides will be running through the downtown leaving from the church and perfect for the whole family to enjoy. Free popcorn, Starbucks coffee/cocoa, and cookies from Neon Lites will be available to keep your spirits warm.



Ohio National's Victorian Holiday Village

Saturday, December 6 • 5 to 8:30 pm
Ohio National Financial Services
Festival of Trees Location Two

The Ohio National Victorian Holiday Village is in its seventh year as a holiday tradition for families in the Montgomery area. Complete with lights, child-sized houses will be decorated in holiday scenes.

Guests can enjoy free cocoa and cookies, free photos with St. Nick and more!

The Victorian Holiday Village is FREE to the public with the request that each guest bring a nonperishable food item (*no glass jars, please*) as a donation. Look for the ONtime Express miniature train and the cheery elves as well! Food items will benefit the Freestore Foodbank.

Bethesda North Hospital Light UP a Life

Saturday, December 6 • 5 to 8 pm
Bethesda North Hospital
Festival of Trees Location Three

Bethesda North Hospital's holiday event is offered in the conference center above the main lobby of the hospital and gift shop area. The event features local entertainers, hot cider and cookies, the Light Up a Life holiday program, a free gift and other seasonal performances and activities. The Light Up a Life program sells strands of holiday lights to recognize or memorialize loved ones with a light shining in their honor. Details are available at www.bethesdafoundation.com or by calling Diana Fogel at 513-745-1617. Plenty of parking is available on site to take advantage of the Free Trolley to circulate among the other celebrations that evening!

Twin Lakes Christmas Celebration

Saturday, December 6 • 5 to 8 pm
Twin Lakes Retirement Community
Festival of Trees Location Four

Twin Lakes will offer its Christmas Celebration in the Chapel at Twin Lakes as part of this community event. The program is free and open to the public. The event will feature classic holiday carols followed by a reception with light refreshments. The Twin Lakes parking lot is open for parking and a convenient connection to the Trolley that goes to the other events of the Holiday in the Village Celebration!

Festival of Trees

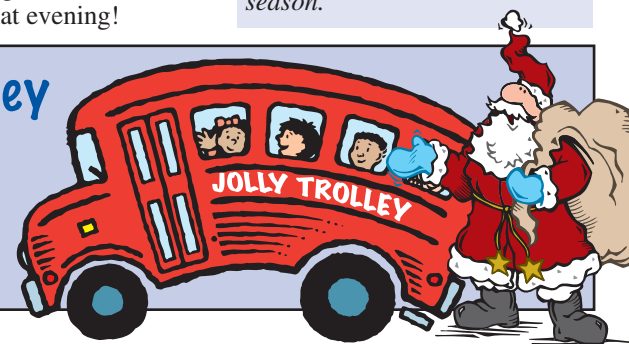
Participants will have a chance to visit each of the four holiday posts to choose the best and brightest of the holiday trees on display at each location as part of this year's first ever Festival of Trees competition!

After reviewing all the trees, completed vote cards can be left in the North Pole mailbox at each location. The entry with the most votes at each location will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a FREE holiday party at Terwilliger Lodge catered with appetizers and drinks by Ohio National Financial Services for up to 50 guests. A \$750 value!

Many of the trees entered as part of the competition will be donated to a local organization in need of holiday trees this season.

All Aboard the Jolly Trolley

Save Gas
Save Time
Save Parking



Council to consider bids for Montgomery Road streetscape project

Proposals are now being reviewed from the October 21 bid opening for the Montgomery Road streetscape replacement project. The project includes work on the east side of Montgomery Road between Cooper and Remington Road.

A recommendation will be presented to City Council at its November 19 work session. Council will be requested to vote on contract authorization at the December 3 Council work session.

Improvements could begin as soon as weather permits in 2009, most likely in late February or March, with a project completion date of June 1.

The project specifications require the selected contractor to maintain pedestrian and vehicular traffic during construction. The continued safe and orderly movement of motorized and foot traffic is vital to local businesses and to traffic progression throughout the community.

It is likely that most, if not all, of the major construction activities will be completed during times when adjacent businesses are closed. This would result in most construction occurring overnight between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

In some instances, the evening hours may need to be adjusted in cases where some

businesses are open later than 9 p.m., while others open earlier than 6 a.m. Field adjustments to construction activity will take business hours into consideration as the project work schedule is coordinated by City staff,

project contractor and adjoining businesses. For additional information on the Montgomery Road streetscape project, contact Public Works Director Bob Nikula at 792-8311 or at bnikula@ci.montgomery.oh.us.

Website now offering City-branded items in time for holiday giving

Visitors to the Montgomery website will soon find a variety of items to be sold in the "Montgomery E-Store." The store will include Montgomery themed items, such as coffee mugs, pens, and umbrellas. New items will be added as they become available. These items are emblazoned with the City of Montgomery logo and provides

an opportunity for residents to show their community pride. Any of the items will make great gifts for friends and neighbors! Visit www.montgomeryohio.org to browse the items.

Also now available is the new 2008 holiday ornament featuring the James Ayres House (c 1820). All eleven of the other ornaments issued to date are also available for sale. They include: Bell House (c 1825), the former village hall building, the Blair-Barker House, the Weller House, the Pioneer Building, the Crain-Conklin House, the Yost Tavern, the Universalist Church, the Wilder-Swaim House, the Hopewell-Montgomery Presbyterian Church, the Hopewell Church window and the Snider House.

The ornaments are on sale throughout the year at City Hall, Timeless Traditions, and at the Wilder Swaim House anytime it's open. The cost of each ornament is \$7. Proceeds benefit the Historic Trust Fund, which pays for repairs and maintenance of city-owned landmarks. When purchasing the full set, the stained glass window ornament is included for free.

Another great gift idea is the custom-designed afghan depicting the Montgomery bicentennial quilt. The quilt pays tribute to Montgomery landmarks as well as other notable sites of interest. The afghan is 100% cotton jacquard woven, is currently on display in the lobby of City Hall and can be purchased for \$60.

The ENCORE Page

News of Interest to Montgomery's Senior Residents

Use yoga to help "Stop the Aging Clock"

The popularity of yoga over the last five years in the United States has grown considerably. In fact, the fastest growing segment of the population to practice this ancient art is those over the age of 45. Unlike traditional exercise, yoga blends "anti-aging" moves that improve circulation, balance, flexibility and strength with meditative techniques such as deep breathing. Some call yoga a "natural face lift" and says it cleanses, relaxes and restores.



Here are just a few of the claimed benefits of yoga:

Minimizes wrinkles: Yoga can reduce stress by nearly a

third, reports a German study. As a result, clenched jaws and furrowed brows relax. Yoga may also rejuvenate skin's glow.

Slows weight gain: During a ten year study of 15,500 men and women over age 45, those who didn't do yoga, gained up to 13.5 pounds. Those who practiced regularly lost up to five pounds.

Eases pain: Studies show that yoga is twice as effective as stretching in reducing back pain.

Helps you sleep: Levels of the brain's natural nighttime sedative, melatonin, decrease

with age. Some research shows that yoga can actually increase melatonin levels.

Keeps you sharp: Practicing focus, deep breathing and meditation techniques has been shown to improve cognitive abilities.

A variety of places offer yoga instruction, including the Montgomery Recreation Department. The next yoga series at the Montgomery Annex Building begins November 17. (*Deadline to register is November 12*) Classes will be offered from 9 to 10 a.m. The series continues until January 12, offering 9 classes for only \$50. See page 10 for a full description.

There is no time like today to get started!

Salt shortages/price hikes impact snow plans

With winter weather just around the corner, the City of Montgomery is well underway in preparing for snow and ice removal from City roadways. The City's goal of providing efficient and effective snow removal is achieved through planning, training and communication efforts between City staff, residents and business owners.

While work has begun on the inspection, testing and repair of snow removal equipment that are critical to snow removal, City staff has embarked on a review of snow removal operations to determine if changes can be made to reduce the amount of deicing rock salt utilized in clearing roadways. As reported in local media, some areas of the country are reporting a shortage of deicing rock salt and the entire state of Ohio appears to be impacted by the shortage.

Regional deicing rock salt shortages have resulted in huge price spikes and have the potential to impact the condition

of roadways this winter locally, regionally and throughout the state. The salt shortage/price spike follows an extremely high nationwide demand for deicing rock salt in two of the last three winters leaving salt suppliers with little, if any deicing rock salt in stockpiles.

While it is the City's goal to provide superior snow removal services to residents and the motoring public, the increased cost for deicing rock salt will require changes to methods utilized to clear roadways during winter storms. Some procedural changes under consideration include pre-treatment of roadways with liquid salt brine prior to predicted winter storms, more frequent plowing and the use of other deicing chemicals or combinations of chemicals to melt snow and ice. Each of these ideas are under review to



determine if these or other procedural changes could reduce the amount of deicing rock salt required for winter snow removal operations.

Staff is also reviewing the City's snow removal policy to determine if changes or revisions are necessary for the 2008-09 winter season. The current snow removal policy is listed on the City's website in the "resident" section under "snow control." This includes the City's snow removal priority map and snow removal policy explaining how snow removal priorities are established, what

snow emergencies in Montgomery mean and why and when they are declared and performance standards for snow removal.

Updates on possible changes to snow removal operations will be discussed among City staff. Any significant

changes to winter operations that would require revisions to the Snow Removal Policy would be discussed with City Council at upcoming City Council meetings.

For additional information contact Public Works Director Bob Nikula at 792-8311.

City Manager earns international office

Montgomery City Manager Cheryl Hilvert has been elected to be one of 20 members on the Executive Board of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). Cheryl was nominated by a body of her peers and elected by the 9,000 members of the international association to serve a three-year term as Vice President from the Midwest Region of ICMA. ICMA is the professional and educational organization for chief appointed local government managers, administrators and assistants from throughout the world.

Since 1914, ICMA has provided technical and management assistance, training, and information resources to its

members and the local government community. The management decisions made by the members of the association affect nearly 185 million individuals in thousands of communities. ICMA's mission is to create excellence in local governance by developing and fostering professional local government management worldwide.

"To be selected by your peers to serve in such a leadership capacity is an honor as well as a testament to the great work our staff at Montgomery is performing in service to our



Cheryl Hilvert

community," said Cheryl, who has worked in city government for 27 years, the last 12 as Montgomery City Manager.

For Montgomery, the honor means that the local government staff, under the leadership of Cheryl as a professional, respected and innovative manager, is recognized throughout the world for best practices in services that are of a high quality, government that is financially responsible and customer service that is valued by its residents and businesses.

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

More important now than ever!

The drought of 2007 and September's hurricane strength winds have had significant impact to the urban forest in Montgomery both on private property and along public right-of-ways and property. As a result of both of these significant weather phenomena, there is now dramatic evidence that trees have either died or been damaged to the point that they must be removed for safety and property protection.



their property are encouraged to contact a professional arborist to assess the condition of the tree(s) on their property to determine the best course of action to take whether it include pruning, fertilization or removal.

In a prior *Montgomery Bulletin* the Norway spruce was identified as a tree species particularly impacted by the 2007 drought. There is now evidence that other species were affected by the drought conditions as well.

As a result of articles in the *Montgomery Bulletin* about tree health and care the City receives inquiries about the condition of trees throughout the City. In some instances, the requests result in a notification sent to the property owner to remove a dead tree on their property. These notices are sent to protect the property owners and to ensure that maintenance of trees on private property throughout the City supports the property maintenance standards and regulations that are in place for our community.

While the City of Montgomery continues work to inspect trees on public properties, residents are reminded that trees on private property are their responsibility for inspection and assessment, maintenance and/or removal. Additionally, the City's property maintenance code requires that any tree that is dead or presents a hazard if left in place is to be removed.

Residents with questions regarding the health of trees on

Questions about the City's property maintenance code should be directed to

Montgomery City Planner Tracy Roblero at 792-8312.

Carpooling from Montgomery can work

Gas is expensive, but you probably think that carpooling to work isn't possible because you won't be able to find anybody else going where you are going. Or that some days you have to run an errand, and that just won't work with carpooling. But other people are thinking the same thing. Since this article is appearing in this publication, read by Montgomery residents, it is increasing the chance that one of your neighbors might add their name to the list of people who want to carpool. You should do the same. It doesn't hurt to find out about a person with a similar destination so you can talk about the possibilities.

For years, you may have heard that the phone number 241-RIDE (241-7433) could match people for carpooling in the Cincinnati area. Now the system is also accessible online

at www.rideshareonline.org. You can go there and read about the process, and how flexible carpooling can be. There are not any rigid rules. It is whatever people want to arrange. Carpooling does not have to be every day. With emails and cell phones it is easy to make changes as needed. It also does not have to be door-to-door. Many people meet at a public parking lot and leave a car. Here in Montgomery, you are welcome to leave a car at any of the parks, or the public parking lot on the east side of Shelly Lane.

Note that there have been some recent reorganizations of Cincinnati and Ohio websites for this service, so don't be surprised if as part of the process of registering at www.rideshareonline.org you are redirected to www.rideshareohio.org.

The pathway to leadership begins here

With 2009 fast approaching, this is a great time to consider sharing your time and talents to serve on one of the City's ten volunteer teams (boards & commissions). Playing a vital role in our community, these volunteer leaders are afforded an excellent opportunity to learn more about our City government at work.

Attending sample meetings is a great way to learn more about

the work of these boards and commission and to have an opportunity to meet additional civic minded, community members. Check out the City's website for a complete listing of the City's boards and commissions, as well as specific information about their respective activities, projects, terms of service and meeting times; or contact Joyce Yock, Volunteer Coordinator (792-8329).

DID YOU KNOW?

Techno Recycling event successful

On September 20, the City hosted the 4th annual Computer/Electronic Recycling Event, sponsored by the City and the Environmental Advisory Council. All of the electronics that were brought in were sent to the Technology Recycling Group for processing.

Here's how successful the event was in amounts collected:

- Total weight: 8,755 lbs.
- Number of CPUs: 92
- Number of Printers: 54
- Number of Monitors: 75

Thank you to everyone who participated!

Volunteers needed to "Trim the Town"

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

decorating project is scheduled for Saturday, November 8. Volunteers will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Annex Building (10115 Montgomery Road) to prepare the decorations for display. The project entails "fluffing" the wreaths and attaching the bows. Hundreds of decorations will be spruced up in just a few hours, thanks to community support.

date-Tuesday, November 11) an army of volunteers will meet between 9:30-10 a.m. at the Universalist Church for specific instructions and to pick up the wreaths and garlands to hang in the Heritage District. The streetscape should be completely trimmed in festive attire by noon. Parking will be available in the City parking lot off Shelly Lane.

time for either stage of this highly visible project, please contact Joyce Yock, Volunteer Coordinator at 792-8329.

The first stage of the

On Monday, November 10, (rain

If you can share a few hours of

2008 Beautification Award winners

They're making Montgomery beautiful



The community members featured above were recognized at the September 17 Council Meeting for their beautification efforts. Each of the 2008 Beautification Award winners received a Certificate of Appreciation, a landscape rock and a color photograph of their property. Commission Member Jacquie Webb (at right in each photo) presents a Certificate of Appreciation to each of the following recipients:

1 Bill Eulberg & Jan Eulberg
8300 Turtlecreek Lane
Residential

2 John & Judi LaFreniere
9208 Village Green Drive
Residential

3 Steve Raab
7717 Cooper Road
Residential

4 Dr. Mark Mandell-Brown
Mandell-Brown Plastic
Surgery Center
Business

5 Carol Wolper
8006 Deersadow Lane
Residential

6 Marti & Chuck Moore
7790 Campus Lane
Most Improved



to members of the **Beautification & Tree Commission** and additional community members that volunteered to assist the Service Department with the fall chrysanthemum planting project. Knowing that the Service Department staff was inundated with the extensive brush pick-up resulting from the hurricane winds of September 14, the following volunteers "dug in" to plant approximately 300 chrysanthemums in the parks: **Beautification & Tree Commission Members Jodi Keith, Lee Levy, Renie Taylor, Jane Hohn and Jacquie Webb;** and community member **Sheila Ebetino and Nancy Tavino** and A HUGE "thank you" is extended to each of these ladies for their beautifying efforts!

November Volunteer Opportunities

- **School's Out Trip-Chaperones** (Adults & Teens)
Friday, November 7 • 8:45 am - 5 pm
Young's Dairy Farm/Putt Putt & Pool
- **Holiday Decorating Workshop** (see story above)
Saturday, November 8
- **Holiday Decorating Day** (see story above)
Monday, November 10
Tuesday, November 11 (Rain Date)
- **Service Department Recycling Project**
(Adults, Teens & Families)
Saturday, November 15, 10 am-1 pm
7315 Cornell Road



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

Recreation Programs

HIGHLIGHTS OF OFFERINGS FROM MONTGOMERY RECREATION

Register for these and other programs online at www.montgomeryohio.org or at City Hall, 10101 Montgomery Road

Winter fitness begins with Fall commitment

Tummy Tucks\PILATES

Tuesdays & Thursdays • 6-7 pm

Nov 18 to Jan 15 (16 classes/no class

11/27 or 12/25) • **Annex Building**

(register at City Hall by Nov 14)

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. *Min 12/ Max 20. Cost \$65R/\$70NR*

20/20/20 Boomer Style

Tuesdays & Thursdays • 9-10 am

Nov 18 to Jan 15 (16 classes/no class

11/27 or 12/25) • **Annex Building**

(register at City Hall by Nov 14)

Looking for a class specifically designed to meet the needs of Baby Boomers? Well, you've found it! 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. *Min 12/ Max 20. Cost \$65R/\$70NR*

ZUMBA!

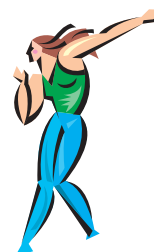
Thursdays • 4:45-5:45 pm

Nov 20 to Jan 15 (7 classes/no class

11/27 or 12/25) **Annex Building** (register

at City Hall or online by Nov 14)

This class is designed to give participants a high energy aerobic workout using Latin dance moves. The certified ZUMBA 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. *Min 10/ Max 20. Cost \$45R/\$40NR*



Power Ball

Mondays • 4:45-5:45 pm

Nov 17 to Jan 12 (9 classes) • **Annex Building** (register online or at City Hall by Nov 12)

Using a stability ball during strength training provides unique angles and positions not possible in traditional strengthening classes. Build muscle and tone key areas like underarms, thighs and abs. This class is appropriate for all fitness levels. *Min 8. Cost \$65*

Kick it UP a Notch Taekwondo Lessons

Mondays & Wednesdays • 6:30-

7:30 or 7:30-8:30 pm • Annex

Building (register at class or City Hall)

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 to get in shape! Teacher works with each individual to advance their skills at a pace that is challenging and comfortable. *Cost is \$35R/\$40NR per month.*



Questions about Programs?

For further information, call City Hall at 891-2424.

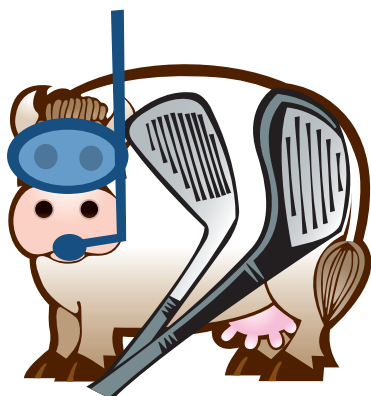
School's Out Trip

Udders, Putters & Pool

Ages 5-9

Friday • November 7 • 9 am - 5 pm (register online by Nov 2)

We are heading to Young's Dairy Farm to visit goats, cows, sheep, chickens, pigs and turkeys and then we'll play miniature golf on one of the two 18 hole courses. Lunch will be at the Dairy Store and we'll sample their homemade ice cream. We will head to an indoor pool at Washington Township Recreation Center to splash around, play pool games and have fun! Meet at the Annex at 10115 Montgomery Rd. Transportation on Sycamore School bus. Make a 'moo-ve' to register online at montgomeryohio.org.



Energize with Yoga!

Mondays • 9-10 am

Nov 17 to Jan 12 (9 classes) • **Annex**

Building (register at City Hall by Nov 12)

Energize your body and mind with this fitness-based yoga class. After a brief aerobic warm-up, we'll practice traditional yoga poses and finish with focused relaxation. Emphasis will be on breathing, stretching, balance, and core strength. The first class will start off at the beginner level and we'll move forward from there. *Min 8. Cost \$50*

Program Registration

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

Favorable pool survey says “no” to gas heaters

Amenities, swim team and friendliness of staff — these are the three attributes that pool patrons and the community rated the highest on the recent Montgomery Community Pool survey. The City strives to achieve high scores in these areas and, according to the survey, is meeting those expectations.

The survey asked for comments since patrons play a key role in setting the expectations and determining the types of services provided at this facility

to keep it a valued community asset. After analyzing the comments, the following goals have been set for 2009:

- having a faster, reliable computer/check-in system
- offering healthy options in the snack bar
- having a constant, warm temperature for showers

The City has already begun the process of upgrading the internet connection to the pool to speed check-in, selecting healthier options for

the menu and having plumbers work on adjusting shower temperatures.

The survey also answered an important question posed to members during the season. Some patrons had suggested heating the pool and the City proposed a traditional gas heater that would boost the water 4-6 degrees to 80 degrees. This proposal would add costs to memberships, swim lessons, swim team and daily gate rates. The results of the survey indicated that currently there is

not the necessary support for the proposal. Survey feedback suggested a more eco-friendly type of heating system, which will be explored and presented for patron thoughts in the future.

A 2008 season wrap up is located at www.montgomeryohio.org (click on “purchase pool pass” and on the document “thank you pool members for a great 2008 pool season”). Pool Memberships for 2009 will be on sale beginning March 16.

Holiday Happenings

Holiday in the Village

(story on Page 5)

The City of Montgomery will sparkle even brighter this holiday season as the annual Holiday in the Village event returns Saturday, December 6, 2008. Four locations share in the cheer of the holiday season and you may travel on the free Jolly Trolley to visit holiday scenes in the **Downtown Montgomery Historic District**, at **Ohio National’s glittering Victorian Holiday Village**, **Bethesda North Hospital** and **Twin Lakes Retirement Community**. See story on page 5, visit www.montgomeryohio.org or call 513-891-2424.



Holiday Coloring Contest

Ages 2-14 • November 10-26

Have the young people in your life express the holiday spirit by putting crayons or any available materials to paper!

Entries will be displayed at the Holiday in the Village in the Universalist Church on December 6 from 5 to 8 p.m. Prize winners in each of the age groups will be announced before the tree lighting ceremony and the Grand Prize Winner will ride with Santa in a horse drawn carriage down Montgomery Road and flip the switch to light the Montgomery Holiday Tree at 5:30 p.m. Pick up entry forms at City Hall or download the flyer at www.montgomeryohio.org starting November 10. Return your entry by 4 p.m. on November 26 to be included in the display. Categories are Most Creative, Best Use of Color and Overall Skill. One entry per child. Winners will be chosen in the following age groups 2-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-14.

Holiday
coloring
contest

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 20 • 8:30 – 10:30 am • Terwilliger Lodge

Bring the whole family down to Dulle Park to share a pancake breakfast with Santa. All-you-can-eat pancakes will be served by the Montgomery Fire Department for \$5/person (family rate of \$20). Bring your wish list to share with Mr. Claus himself (be sure to have your free picture taken with the jolly old elf for terrific gift-giving keepsakes!) All proceeds benefit the Christmas Family Fund to support a local family in need with gifts and toys shared in the generosity of the holiday spirit. Get your tickets at the door. We invite you to share in the spirit of the season and to help others by bringing food items for the FreeStore Foodbank.



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

Thanksgiving Day race to start at 8 am

A 5K Thanksgiving Day race will be run through Montgomery from 8 - 9 a.m. Sponsored by YoungLife, the race will organize and begin in the Zig-Zag parking lot of Swaim Park.

Runners will turn north on Zig-Zag from Swaim Park, proceeding onto Monte continuing on Zig-Zag, east on Jolain to southbound on Tollgate Lane and Knollbrook Terrace. Participants will then continue onto eastbound Zig-Zag, returning to southbound Monte Drive for race completion at starting place of Swaim Park. Course length is approximately 3.125 miles.

No streets will be closed during the event, which will be run on sidewalks, where possible. Motorists are urged to exercise caution when driving in the race area. Police officers will

providing event/traffic control security. For more race information, contact YoungLife at 513-791-3730.

Arrange for police checks of property while on vacation

Whether you are away from home for a week of vacation or enjoy the winter somewhere warm, the last thing residents should have to worry about is the security of their home.

Montgomery's Police Department will keep an extra eye on homes while residents are away.

Patrol officers will physically check the security of a residence while its occupants are away. Residents can register for these vacation checks on the City's website, by calling the Police Department at 985-1600 or by stopping by the Police Department.

Residents complete an

information card with special instructions and contact information.

Officers can then contact the owners or a nearby friend or family member

if something seems out of place during an Officer's routine check.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

NOVEMBER • NOVEMBER • NOVEMBER • NOVEMBER

2	Daylight Savings Time Ends	Fall Back One Hour	
3	Beautification Commission	City Hall	9 am
3	Arts Commission	City Hall	5 pm
3	Planning Commission	City Hall	7:30 pm
4	Election Day		
5	Council Business Session	City Hall	7 pm
7	Rec. Dept. Day Trip	Swaim Lodge	9 am-5 pm
7	Sycamore Schools Closed		
8	Holiday Decorating Workshop	Swaim Lodge	9:30 am
10	Holiday Coloring Contest Begins		
10	Downtown Holiday Decorating	Univ. Church	9:30 am
11	Veteran's Day, City Offices Open, trash pick up as usual		
11	Downtown Holiday Decorating rain date	Univ. Church	9:30 am
11	Environmental Advisory Committee	City Hall	4:30 pm
12	Landmarks Commission	City Hall	7 pm
15	Cardboard Recycling	7315 Cornell Road	10 am - 1 pm
17	Parks and Recreation Committee	Safety Center	6:30 pm
17	Planning Commission	City Hall	7:30 pm
18	Sister Cities Commission	City Hall	7 pm
19	Council Work Session	City Hall	7 pm
25	Board of Zoning Appeals	City Hall	7:30 pm
26	Sycamore Schools Thanksgiving Break Begins		
26	Kids' Holiday Coloring Contest Ends	City Hall	5 pm
27	Thanksgiving, City Offices Closed, trash pick up as usual		
28	City Offices Closed, trash pick up as usual		

DECEMBER • DECEMBER • DECEMBER • DECEMBER

6	Holiday in the Village	downtown Montgomery	5-8 pm
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