

January 2009

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On-street parking may be prohibited in snow

Residents and motorists will see changes in how the City of Montgomery completes snow removal on local roadways as a result of the regional shortage of de-icing rock salt.



One of the most notable changes anticipated for this winter will be more frequent snow plowing during and after accumulating snowfalls of 1½ inches or greater.

When snowfall accumulations require snow plowing to begin, it is very likely that a Snow Emergency will be declared in Montgomery. The declaration of a Snow Emergency establishes temporary on-street parking prohibitions on every City street in the community.

The City of Montgomery makes every effort to provide timely services in a cost-efficient manner. One way the City works to be cost-efficient is by seeking out grant opportunities to help fund some of the costs to provide quality service to the community.

During 2008, the City was successful in securing \$674,284 in grant funding. Projects earning grant funding in 2008 include:

“Ohio Safe Commute” was received from the State of Ohio to pay for officers to work overtime on Interstate 71 to reduce accidents and aggressive driving. *(Grant Amount: \$9,034)*

During the winter months, the City of Montgomery plans to keep residents informed about on-street parking prohibitions and snow removal operations through several communication tools:

CodeRED notifications

During times when on-street parking is prohibited the City of Montgomery plans to utilize the CodeRED notification system by sending an automated phone message to Montgomery residents. *(see page 4)*

Local TV Stations

The City will notify the four major TV stations in Cincinnati of Snow

Emergency declarations in Montgomery indicating that on-street parking is prohibited.

Snow Line

Residents can also call the City of Montgomery Snow Line at 792-8345 to hear an automated message updating callers about snow removal operations during and immediately after winter storms.

With the expectation that winter storms and accumulating snowfall can literally happen at any time over the next 3 or 4 months, residents can be assured that City staff is prepared for upcoming winter storms. Residents can review the City’s snow removal policy and the City’s snow removal priority street map on the City web site.

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

City gets \$674,000 in grants during 2008

Hamilton County OVI Task Force paid for officers to work overtime to arrest drunken drivers. *(Grant Amount: \$600)*

A 50 percent reimbursement on the purchase of replacement bulletproof vests from the Bureau of Justice Administration. *(Grant Amount: \$750)*

The Ohio Attorney General’s Office helped fund the City’s Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) officer. *(Grant Amount: \$11,000)*

A video surveillance system and related training were provided by the Department of Homeland Security. *(Grant Amount: \$11,400)*

Automatic blood pressure machine. *(Grant Amount: \$2,500)*

State Fire Inspector Certification. *(Grant Amount: \$400)*

Start-up costs for a Residential Recycling Incentive. *(Grant Amount: \$34,000)*

Ohio Department of Transportation for work on Montgomery Road in front of Bethesda Hospital. *(Grant Amount: \$65,000 payable in 2009)*

OKI Regional Council of Governments for traffic signal upgrades at eleven signalized intersections throughout the City. *(Grant Amount: \$540,000 payable in 2012)*

A message from City Council

Looking to the City's future in tough economic times



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

As we move into this New Year, many of us are asking how the severely slowing economy can be expected to impact our financial decisions here in Montgomery. In seeking reliable answers to this question, I would like to share the following information with you. First of all, the City is fortunate that tax collections are strong at this time. As of the end of November earnings tax revenues have increased 13.9%, or \$849,086 over the amount collected last year for the same

period of time. This is the standard expectation.

The earnings tax is the City's largest source of revenue for the General Fund. While this is good news, the issue we'll be facing is that our earnings tax collections normally lag what happens in the economy, so any drop in employment numbers will likely not be recognized in tax revenues for 3 to 4 months.

Because of the efficient and highly dedicated staff at City Hall there are a number of plans that have been prepared for such a downturn. First of all, the City instituted a policy of reserving a portion of the General Fund cash balance

equivalent to 6-12 months of operating expenses. A second positive operating decision is that the City budgets are prepared very conservatively. This means that tax collections need only to remain flat from the level collected this current year to meet its 2009 tax revenue estimate.

The foregoing thoughts are intended for the reader to have some comfort in knowing your City is acting in a fiscally responsible manner. Here in Montgomery I believe, more than ever, that our decision-making process will continue to be guided by sound and visible leadership that ensures a consistent set of values

reflective of the citizens who reside in this most desirable and stable community. Our policies and vision remain focused as expected. It isn't simply by chance that investors continue to look to Montgomery as sound sites for financial investments. Our citizenry are the radiance that truly counts.

One look at our City's web site demonstrates the togetherness that invites citizen input and participation. It is there for the use of all residents. Don't be a stranger now.

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

COUNCIL CORNER

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

New Legislation

■ A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with CDS Associates, Inc. for professional services related to general engineering and architectural services

■ A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Ray Kingsbury for professional services related to communications, public relations, and citizen outreach

■ An Ordinance amending portions of Sections 151.32 and 151.34 of the Code of Ordinances providing parking and landscape/screening regulations

Recent Council Action

DECEMBER 3 BUSINESS SESSION

Approved Legislation

Ordinance No. 19, 2008

■ 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 7-0)

Ordinance No. 20, 2008

■ An ordinance restricting snow emergency parking and declaring an emergency (passed 7-0)

Resolution No. 33, 2008

■ A resolution adopting a five-year Capital Improvement Program for the City of Montgomery (passed 7-0)

Resolution No. 34, 2008

■ A resolution accepting a bid and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with the R.A. Miller Construction Co., Inc. for the Montgomery Road Streetscape Replacement Project (passed 7-0)

Resolution No. 35, 2008

■ A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Audio Visual Impact, Inc. for professional services related to the *Montgomery Bulletin* (passed 7-0)

Resolution No. 36, 2008

■ A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Quality Publishing Company, Inc. for professional

services related to the publishing of the *Montgomery Bulletin* (passed 7-0)

Resolution No. 37, 2008

■ A resolution authorizing a contract between the City of Montgomery and City of Cincinnati for continuing water service (passed 7-0)

DECEMBER 17 WORK SESSION

Approved Legislation

Ordinance No. 21, 2008

■ An ordinance to amend appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Montgomery during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2008 (passed 7-0)

These pieces of approved legislation can be reviewed on the City's website at www.montgomeryohio.org

Never Forget

April 9, 1999, disaster prompted massive response

The April 9, 1999, tornado destroyed homes and significantly impacted many lives. The disaster required a responsive government team of employees to bind the community together in an effort to rebuild and recover. Not only did employees provide immediate response, information learned in the aftermath of the enormous disaster has enabled each public servant to become better prepared should the community face a similar situation.

The response was truly a team effort that began minutes after touchdown, starting with the hands and hearts of these employees and many community volunteers.

Fire Department

The Fire Department was the first to be challenged that day, as well as the week following. The City utilized mutual-aid with departments responding as far away as Dayton, Ohio. On the day of the tornado, fire personnel responded to more than 130 emergency calls. In a typical day, the Fire Department would make five responses in a day. In looking back, Fire Department personnel expressed amazement over the amount of cooperation among the many different agencies involved.

Police Department

As with the Fire Department, the Police Department was one of the first responders to the tragedy. Upon arrival, the officers secured the area and assisted the Fire Department in a search for victims.

Once the Fire Department had adequate personnel in place, officers moved into a security mode to protect homeowners and their property. A secure perimeter was established

permitting only authorized personnel into the affected area.

The Police Department, along with other police agencies, secured the area on a 24-hour basis for approximately two weeks. The Police Department worked with outside agencies, including the Ohio Attorney General's Office, the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency and the Ohio National Guard to provide support to residents. In addition, the Police Department and clerical staff fielded hundreds of calls for service and provided daily media updates, all while maintaining ongoing services in the community outside of disaster assignments.

Public Works Department

Public Works personnel were first called to assist the Fire Department to support search and rescue efforts during the first hours after the tornado. The Department was faced with its own losses, with two buildings totally destroyed and the primary building significantly damaged. The Service Department became the drop-off point for all woody debris. Public Works staff worked 12-hour shifts for weeks after the tornado, clearing streets and right-of-ways. The Department received tremendous support from state, county and local government agencies, the Metropolitan Sewer District, and countless volunteers to clear creeks and waterways of debris. The Department worked with the Ohio Southwest Forestry Department to develop a recovery plan for the Johnson Nature Preserve that was 90 percent destroyed.

Administrative Departments

Members of the Administrative team helped to coordinate the myriad of projects that followed, a recovery that would take

weeks and months after the tornado. Additionally, work by the Administrative employees included:

- Application for state and federal disaster recovery assistance and coordination of site visits by state and federal government officials
- Management of an Emergency Operations Center throughout the disaster recovery
- Building inspection and condemnation, approval of new building plans and reconstruction
- Information dissemination to the media and affected citizens, coordinated citizen outreach effort and continuing dialogue for citizens affected by the disaster

- Coordination between the 35 local cities, counties and villages providing mutual aid assistance
- Coordination with Red Cross and local churches in disaster recovery work and citizen aid
- Management of all contracts and financial resources needed for disaster recovery, as well as volunteer coordination.

Artist Jim Borgman's drawing created in remembrance of the disaster was captioned with the words "We're all in this together." His words captured the feeling of the Montgomery community and its government employees.

Together our community has prevailed through tough moments to shine within the region.

Retirement open house to honor Brenda Fisher

After serving the City of Montgomery 23 years, Montgomery Mayor's Court Clerk Brenda Fisher is retiring.

In recognition of her service, the Montgomery Police Department has planned a retirement open

house Friday, January 30, at the Safety Center, 10150 Montgomery Road. The open house is scheduled from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with a brief ceremony planned at noon. Light appetizers and refreshments will be served.

Julie Prickett fills post of Executive Assistant

Julie Prickett has joined the City of Montgomery as Executive Assistant in the City Manager's Office. She comes to Montgomery with more than 20 years of public service in municipal and township government settings.

Julie has a Master of Public

Administration degree and a Bachelors degree in Political Science from the University of Cincinnati.

As a native of the greater Cincinnati area, Julie has been a long time attendee at the City's 4th of July parade and a long-time fan of Bastille Day.

Coyote sightings reported in city areas

Shades of the Wild West visit Montgomery

While they are not native to Ohio, coyotes are present throughout the state, according to the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Reports of coyotes have been increasing in Montgomery, prompting concern on the part of residents who either see or hear a coyote near their property.

While coyotes do not present a major threat, vigilance is advised in safeguarding pets and young children. On rare occasions, coyotes have attacked small domestic animals for food or when protecting their pups.

Coyotes are generally considered to be nocturnal hunters, although they will hunt during the day when food is scarce or when feeding their young. Coyotes are omnivorous, meaning they eat what is available for them at the moment, such as small mammals (*mice, rabbits, shrews, and moles*), vegetables, nuts and carrion (*road kill*).

Typically, coyotes are more



The coyote is generally a slender animal, very similar in appearance to a medium-sized dog. Since the coyote and domesticated dog are from the same family, Canidae, the resemblance is more than a coincidence. Coyotes have a bushy tail which is usually tipped in black and is carried down at a 45 degree angle as the animal moves, unlike that of its other cousin the wolf. The majority of coyotes are gray, though some show a rusty, brown or off-white coloration. The coyote stands about one and one half to two feet tall and is between 41 to 53 inches in length. Males of this species are larger than the females and weigh anywhere from 20 to 50 pounds.

visible during the breeding months of January/February and in April/May, when the pups are born. Coyotes may become more visible and vocal during these months as the adult coyotes search for food throughout the day. The lack of ground cover also makes them more visible in winter months.

What residents can do to safeguard pets and children

Coyotes are naturally timid around people. Rarely do they attack a human. As a precaution, watch small children and pets, particularly at times when coyotes are known

to be present in the area.

The best defense is to understand the animals' behavior:

- *Accompany your small pets outside or walk them on a leash. Coyotes, like most wild animals flee when people are around.*
- *Teach children about the dangers of approaching any strange animal in or around your residence. While coyotes have a canine appearance, children should be cautioned that they are not dogs. Even a small coyote pup, as cute as it may be, could present a serious threat, especially if its parent is nearby.*
- *Don't leave food outside for your pets or stray cats. Food attracts small rodents which are the usual fare for coyotes.*
- *Keep your yard lighted, coyotes are naturally nocturnal and prefer to hunt during darkness.*
- *Although human contact with coyotes is extremely rare, do not allow small children outside alone.*
- *If you spot a coyote, make noise and waive your arms; coyotes are naturally timid and will usually flee.*
- *Store trash in covered, heavy-duty containers.*
- *Keep yards free of potential shelter such as brush or weeds.*
- *Do not allow spillage to accumulate around bird or squirrel feeders.*

Education is the key to understanding a coyote's behavior within an urban area or residential setting. **Residents are strongly advised to report coyote sightings to the Montgomery Police Department at 985-1600.**

CodeRED™ : is your contact information correct?

The City of Montgomery has the capability to instantly contact residents and businesses in the event of an emergency. The program, called CodeRED™, is a secure Internet-based system that helps Montgomery's emergency personnel deliver critical, time-sensitive information in an extremely short period of time.

CodeRED™ has mapping capabilities for geographic targeting of calls, coupled with a high speed telephone calling

system capable of delivering customized pre-recorded emergency messages directly to homes and businesses at the rate of up to 60,000 calls per hour.

CodeRED™ calls can include:

- Missing children advisories
- Boil water alerts
- Hazardous chemical spills
- Local criminal activity
- Homeland security issues
- Parking prohibitions

Montgomery residents and business owners should ensure their contact information is correct by completing the form at

www.montgomeryohio.org/CodeRed.htm

If you have questions, call the Montgomery Police Department at 985-1600.

Online forum nets several valid suggestions

Beginning in October, the City initiated an Open City Hall forum as a new channel for citizen participation on the City's web site. The first topic posted for the public's input focused on energy conservation and how the City should work toward enhancing the environment and maximizing the use of tax dollars.

A total of 13 statements from interested citizens were posted in response to the energy conservation issue. The statements provided a variety of ideas addressing energy conservation.

In an effort to address the comments and suggestions included in the statements for topics posted on the forum page, City teams will be assigned the task of reviewing these statements and making recommendations on possible action plans. The Energy Management Team has the responsibility of reviewing the comments on the energy conservation issue.

A cursory review of the statements revealed some common themes: Recycling, Energy Conservation and Healthy Lifestyles.

Recycling

Most notable in the statements was the importance of recycling, whether it was the City's "RecycleBank" or suggesting new ideas to encourage businesses to take a more proactive role in the recycling initiative. One suggestion which is being considered is the publishing of a recycling "counter" which translates the amount of recyclables collected through the RecycleBank into gallons of oil or the number of trees saved. This measure alone represents the importance of the effect that recycling has on the environment.

Another suggestion in the area of recycling is to address recycling

for businesses, which will require a collaborative effort among the City, businesses and waste management vendors. In addition, the idea of reinforcing the recycling initiative and energy conservation in the local schools will again require a collaborative approach on the part of the schools and the City.

Energy Conservation

Greater use of hybrid or fuel-alternative vehicles was another popular comment among citizens responding to the energy question. Consistent with this initiative, the City has recently placed an order for an electric car (to replace a pick-up truck scheduled for replacement in 2008), which will be utilized by the City's Public Works Department beginning in 2009. In addition, the City has also placed an order for a Segway personal transporter to be used by the Police Department for special events when the downtown area is congested with vehicles and people.

The City has taken an active role in managing fuel consumption by implementing a fuel conservation policy for City vehicles. The policy, issued by the City Manager, established a benchmark of reducing fuel usage for gas and diesel by 5.43% in the first year of the policy. Also, in order to reduce energy costs and consumption, the City is in the process of having an energy audit of its major facilities: 50% of the cost of the audit may be funded with a grant awarded to the City of Montgomery by the State of Ohio.

Healthy Lifestyles

Also deserving of attention was the concept of Montgomery promoting a healthier lifestyle and reducing vehicle congestion through the activities of walking and bicycling by extending the City's network of walkways and sidewalks. This issue is seen as a long-term goal requiring

Come join the discussion!

Residents are invited to share their thoughts and ideas via the Open City Hall forum. Join in the discussion at www.montgomeryohio.org/peak.htm.

What type of New Year's resolutions should the City consider? What part can you play in helping meet the goal?

The City's New Year's resolution is to

continue offering citizens more channels for participating in Montgomery decisions. The Open City Hall forum is one such channel. Already more than 150 people have visited Open City Hall. Nearly 40 have posted comments.

In addition to the Open City Hall forum, residents may contact City Hall via email, fax, or by telephone.

financial programming over several years. The City's Strategic Plan addresses pedestrian friendly improvements throughout the City and as funding permits the City will continue to take an aggressive role in investing in these infrastructure improvements. Through the City's Five Year Capital Improvement Program projects have been planned to improve the City's infrastructure consistent with the City's strategic plan. For example, in 2008, the sidewalk link along Jolain Drive was completed.

The City of Montgomery will continue its work on energy conservation and environmental sustainability through the activities of its teams formed to address these issues. Citizen input and feedback on these topics will continue to be a critical means in determining the policy direction regarding energy conservation and sustainability consistent with the expectations of Montgomery citizens.

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 through on-line public conversation.

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

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

Snow Line
792-8345

Careful when shoveling snow this winter!

Snow shoveling can be hazardous to the health of senior citizens as well as for those who have a history of heart trouble. The average weight of snow on a shovel is 16 pounds. For an elderly citizen and others at risk, injury can result from the lifting and twisting involved in shoveling snow. Worse, heart attacks can occur from over exertion. Extra strain is also added on the body from cold air, which makes it more difficult to breathe and move. Icy conditions also promote the chance of falling and injury.

If possible, arrange for a

neighbor or family member who is in good physical condition to shovel snow during the winter months or invest in a snow blower. If you choose to shovel snow yourself, follow these tips to reduce your risk of injury.



Avoid caffeine or nicotine before beginning. These are stimulants, which may increase your heart rate and cause your blood vessels to constrict. This places extra stress on the heart.

Warm up your muscles before shoveling, by walking

for a few minutes or marching in place. Stretch the muscles in your arms and legs because warm muscles will work more efficiently and be less likely to be injured.

Dress warmly, but in layers. It is very easy to get

overheated while working to clear your driveway. Take off layers before you get sweaty so that you do not later get a chill.

Drink plenty of water. Dehydration is just as big an issue in cold winter months as it is in the summer.

Pick the shovel that's right for you. A smaller blade will require you to lift less snow, putting less strain on your body. Use a flat-faced shovel for heavier jobs when the snow is deep or is wet and heavy. Use a rounded shovel for light, dry snow or snow that is only a few inches thick.

Purchase a salt/sand mixture for icy areas. The salt helps to melt the ice, while the sand provides traction.

Lift with your legs not your back. This will help prevent the lower back from twisting and will help alleviate any back soreness that you might typically experience the day after a hard shoveling job.

Pick up smaller loads of snow. It's best to shovel by sections.

Push instead of lift. Save your back and your energy by simply pushing snow to the side instead of lifting the snow and throwing it to the side.

Stop if needed. Stop if you feel pain or observe heart attack warning signs, such as chest pain, dizziness, fainting, sweating, nausea or shortness of breath. If you think you're having a heart attack, seek medical help immediately.

Good health is a walk in the park!

Walking may be the best fitness activity for many people over the age of 50, given the relatively low physical risks and enormous long term health benefits. A recent study revealed that a regular regimen of walking for exercise lowered the risk of death from cancer and cardiovascular disease. A physician-approved walking program can also have a variety of short-term benefits.

Benefits of walking:

Control weight, blood sugar and cholesterol levels. A brisk walk can burn up to 100 calories per mile or 300 calories per hour. Walking is the perfect complement to a sensible diet to lose weight and keep it off.

Improve cardiovascular fitness and circulation. Walking gets the heart beating faster to transport oxygen-rich blood from the lungs to the muscles; and increases the size and improves the efficiency of tiny vessels that supply blood for cellular respiration.

Facilitate medical rehabilitation and recovery from many ailments, including heart attack.

Generate a sense of well-being, and can relieve depression, anxiety and stress by naturally producing endorphins, the body's natural tranquilizer.

Obviously, walking in the winter can have its challenges.

Temperatures and safety risks must be monitored on a regular basis. At times, walking in-doors at a fitness facility, or on a home treadmill, may be advisable.

However, when weather permits, Montgomery has an excellent system of both trails and sidewalks to discover. In fact, there are 2.3 miles of accessible walking trails within the parks and 12.44 miles of marked sidewalks connecting neighborhoods, businesses and parks!

A map of all these routes and park options is available at www.montgomeryohio.org under "Parks and Recreation." For the new year, put walking for health at the top of your New Year's Resolution list.

Green Landscaping Workshops to begin March 5

Montgomery's Beautification & Tree Commission and the Environmental Advisory Commission along with the City of Blue Ash and Amberley Village will co-host a mini-series comprised of five, free "Green Landscaping" presentations that are open to the public.

Learn from experts how to use Green Landscaping practices to improve the health and appearance of your yard, save you time and money and protect

the environment. Five sessions are scheduled on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Terwilliger Lodge. Each session will feature renowned experts in the field to address the following topics:

March 5 Rain Gardens and Contour Planting

Dave Dyke, OSU Extension, Hamilton County
Joe Boggs, OSU Extension, Hamilton County
Tara Maddock, Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities

March 12 Soil Testing and Sustainable Plants for the Landscape

Holly Ultrata-Halcomb, Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District
Steve Foltz, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden

March 19 Rain Barrels and Water Harvesting

Pam Simmons, Green City Resources
Rose Seeger, Green City Resources
Tara Maddock, Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities

March 26 Composting and Mulching

Holly Christmann, Hamilton County Solid Waste District
John Duke, American Compost Society

April 2 Lawn Care and Integrated Pest Management

Joe Boggs, OSU Extension, Hamilton County

April 4 Rain Garden Design Training

Mill Creek Watershed Council

The program's grand finale will be the April 4, Rain Garden Design Training conducted by Mill Creek Watershed Council from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in Terwilliger Lodge (25 maximum attendance). The \$25 fee includes beverages, lunch and training materials.

Visit the City's web site for more details or to register for the April 4, workshop. More information about the entire listing of informative and interesting workshops will be featured in the February *Bulletin*.

Montgomery residents recycled 202.77 Tons!

From October 27 to December 4, participants in the City's new RecycleBank program recycled 202.77 tons of metal, glass, plastic, and paper. Residents who have signed up for the innovative recycling effort have already significantly benefited the environment — and the local economy.

Recyclable Materials

- Plastic bottles & jugs*
- Glass bottles & jars*
- Empty aerosol cans*
- Aluminum & steel cans
- Paperboard
(cereal boxes, etc.)
- Junk mail & envelopes
- Magazines, catalogs, & phone books
- Newspapers
- Cardboard
- Office Paper
- Brown grocery bags

* remove lids and tips

decreases the amount of waste going to the landfill.

On average, each household in Montgomery recycled 131 pounds and has increased the recycle rate 54% over 2007. That's a lot of pop cans and newspapers!

If you would like to see even more material recycled, check

out the list above to make sure you include all these materials in your RecycleBank cart.

Don't have a RecycleBank cart? Its easy to get one! Simply visit www.montgomeryohio.org and sign up to receive a cart. Residents who have a cart already are urged to check their account at www.RecycleBank.com.

No computer? No problem. Residents can also establish or check accounts by calling RecycleBank toll free at 1-888-727-2978.

The recycling efforts in Montgomery saved the equivalent of:

- 1,784 trees
- 29,164 gallons of gasoline
- Enough energy to power 34 homes for an entire year
- Reduced greenhouse gases equivalent to 130 cars' emissions during a one-year period.

Recycling reduces air pollution, conserves natural resources, and

Check out the myriad of online services

Recognizing that many Montgomery residents do not have time available during the day to conduct business with the City, more options are being added to the Montgomery web site. These efforts will allow users of City services to conduct business and learn more about services after regular business hours.

A subscription service is available to receive up-to-the-minute information on Board/Commission and City Council meeting reminders, as well as City Council 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 and Swaim lodges can be reserved online as well. Residents can reserve a lodge up to 12 months in advance. It is easy, convenient and secure!

Residents may also register for recreation offerings and can purchase a pool membership when they go on sale in March.

Commemorative trees and benches can be purchased online as well. Trees, benches and commemorative paver bricks are available via the City's web site. Montgomery themed items such as coffee mugs, logo apparel, holiday ornaments, books, travel blankets and the Bicentennial afghan are also available.

Another online service is the Action Line, which 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.

Visit www.montgomeryohio.org to access these online services.

Winner of the Inaugural Festival of Trees

Sycamore Senior Center wins contest

From a matchbox car that represented the Meals on Wheels service to a 'Gumby' character that represented the walking group, all of the ornaments on the winning holiday tree in the first ever Holiday Tree Contest represented the activities at the Sycamore Senior Center. Each ornament was handmade by members of the Center.

The amount of care and time that went into the tree resulted in winning the popular vote by

visitors at the December 6 Holiday in the Village event.

The Sycamore Senior Center's tree was located at Bethesda North Hospital, one of four contest locations. Other venues included the Historic Universalist Church, Ohio National Financial Services and Twin Lakes at Montgomery, where a total of 18 decorated trees were donated by businesses, community members, volunteer groups and others.

Sycamore Senior Center's winning tree was entitled "Sharing Holiday Joy" which is appropriate since they can now share the joy of the holiday season with each other at the party they won.

Many of the trees in the contest sported creative twists including garlands made with stretch bands on a fitness tree, adding tape on a business submission and caution tape on the tree entered by law enforcement personnel. In addition to unique

themes, some trees offered traditional beauty.

Holiday Tree Entries

Colonial Tree

Medical Records at Bethesda North

Winter Wonderland

Volunteer Resources at Bethesda North

Merry Fitness and a Healthy New You

TriHealth Fitness & Health Pavilion

The Business of the Holidays

Ohio National Financial Services

To Protect and Serve

Parents of a City of Montgomery Police Lieutenant

A Gardening We Grow

Montgomery Beautification and Tree Commission

Christmas in the Garden

The Silky Way

Giving Tree

The Bethesda Foundation

Child's Delight

Insurance Services at Ohio National

Splish Splash

Montgomery's Park and Recreation Department

Landmark Ornament Tree

Kaye Gaffney of the Montgomery Landmarks Commission

Opulent Christmas

Wanda Kinzie of the Montgomery Arts Commission

Joyeux Noel

Marcellene Shockey of the Montgomery's Sister Cities Commission

Snowbirds

Staci Bradley

Jewels of Montgomery

City of Montgomery

Sharing Holiday Joy

Sycamore Senior Center

Metallic Christmas

Ray Miller of the Montgomery Arts Commission

Pretty in Pink

Heather Mahiques

THANKS

for making a difference!

The City of Montgomery wishes to acknowledge the following civic organizations for their support and participation in 2008 City events and programs. Each has played a vital role in helping to make numerous happenings a success and, more importantly, promote "community" within the City.

American Legion Post #30

Blue Ash/Montgomery Rotary Club

Blue Ash Montgomery Symphony Orchestra

Bethesda Foundation

Crazy Eights

Cub Scout Pack 189

Girl Scout Troop 43947

Boy Scout Troop 258

Boy Scout Troop 674

Gospel Baptist Church

Indianwoods Homeowners Association

Lazy Daisy Garden Club

Montgomery's City Boards and Commissions

Montgomery Citizen Leadership Academy

Montgomery Historic Preservation Association

Montgomery Kiwanis Club

Montgomery Moms

Montgomery Presbyterian Church

Montgomery Woman's Club

Mormon Youth Group

Ohio National Financial Services Foundation

St. Barnabas Church

Sons of the American Revolution

Sycamore Christian Church

Sycamore Community School District

Maple Dale Elementary 2nd Graders

Montgomery Elementary 2nd Graders

Symmes Elementary 2nd Graders

Sycamore Junior High Beta Club

Sycamore High School

Environmental Awareness Club

Key Club

Marching Band

National Honor Society

Student Council

Syrian Shrine Clowns

Ursuline Academy Community Service

Personal, hands-on assistance and support from the staff of the House of France, French Rendez-vous and Mark Mallette, Mallette & Associates, Inc.

We listened: park projects underway

The Park Study that the City conducted in coordination with the Parks and Recreation Commission in 2007, and then finalized in the spring of 2008, has started to take shape. This past year, the City started working on some of the priorities identified through this participatory process.

Current projects

Weller Park: The baseball fields were the first on the list to be refurbished.

That work will be finished in time for spring sports. The project included reworking the three fields, enlarging the east field to 80-



foot bases, adding dirt for a new ball diamond, replacing the backstops, and installing concrete pads under the team benches. A John Deere 1200A Bunker and Field Rake were

also purchased for field maintenance and manicuring throughout the season.

Dulle Park:

The tennis court was resurfaced and painted, with new tennis nets installed. These courts are frequently used by players living in and around the park



and were identified through the Park Study as the courts most in need of repair. With a complete overhaul, the courts are ready for regular use

come the first warm breezes of spring.

Montgomery Park: The basketball court was resurfaced with new lines painted for full court and half court play options. Also, netting was installed to stop balls from

rolling down the hillside along the south edge of the courts.

Planned improvements

Upcoming projects include new playground equipment that will be installed and mixed with existing play structures at Montgomery Park. The new pieces of equipment are intended for the 2 to 4 year-old and the 5 to 12 year-old age groups. The new equipment will add a mixed variety of play elements for these age groups to experiment and learn coordination and agility while playing.

All season restrooms at Swaim and Weller Parks will be constructed in 2009.

At Swaim Park, low level pathway lighting for added security in the park is being designed. Installation should begin soon, weather permitting.

New plexiglass basketball backboards will be installed at Weller Park similar to those in other City parks. Fundraising efforts for improvements to Johnson Nature Preserve will begin with an event being planned to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the April 1999 tornado.

Questions and comments about the park projects can be directed to the Service Department at 792-8355.

Volunteers sought to help remove holiday decorations

Numerous volunteers are needed on Monday, January 5, at 10:00 a.m., to remove the holiday decorations

in the Heritage District or to assist with inventorying and storing the decorations. Those preferring indoor tasks will meet at the Annex Building, 10115 Montgomery Road. Those willing to work outdoors will meet at the Universalist Church, corner of Montgomery and Remington Roads. Contact Joyce Yock, Volunteer Coordinator, at 792-8329 to sign up or for more information.

The project rain date is Tuesday, January 6.

Hats Off...



to two teams of volunteers that worked on this year's Holiday Decorating Project. Twenty-nine volunteers shared their time on November 8 to prepare the decorations for hanging while an additional 51 volunteers braved the cold to assist with the Heritage District decorating on November 10. A total of 173 volunteer hours were expended on these two stages of this highly visible project. A grateful "thank you" is extended to all the community members that helped to create a warm and welcoming holiday display to be enjoyed by our residents as well as visitors to our community.

Start off the new year in a volunteer leadership role

Montgomery's Arts Commission will soon have a membership vacancy to fill. The seven member team meets on the first Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in City Hall. Adhering to their mission "To foster and promote the visual and performing arts within the City of Montgomery for the benefit of its residents," the Commission's projects include the annual Photography Contest and Exhibit, Photography Workshop, Antiques Appraisal, and the Fine Arts Sampler event. Additional projects for the 2009 agenda include a Ceramics Exhibit and a fundraising Gala event.

For more information about the Arts Commission or to attend an upcoming meeting, contact Joyce Yock, Volunteer Coordinator, at 792-8329.

January Volunteer Opportunities

- Holiday Decoration Take-Down (Adults)**
 Monday, January 5 • 10:00 a.m.
 Universalist Church or Annex Building
Volunteers are needed to assist with removing, inventorying and storing the holiday decorations.
- Service Department Cardboard Recycling Drop-off**
(Adults, Teens & Families)
 Saturday, January 17, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
 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

School's Out Day Mission Possible

Ages 10-15

Monday, February 16 • 0900-1700 hours (Civilian Time: 9 am-5 pm)

Meet at Agent Headquarters

(Terwilliger Lodge, 10530 Deerfield Rd., Dulle Park) (register by February 9)

We are "recruiting Agents" to embark on a top secret mission. Agents will be briefed on what crime scenes are all about - seeing the tools used to process crime scenes, understanding how to lift fingerprints and having their own fingerprints lifted. Agents will be "trained" on covert ops by: discovering the life of a City

of Montgomery police officer, seeing how radar and lasers work to detect speed, getting an inside look of a police cruiser, as well as other fun activities planned to put their detective skills to the test. If



Agents choose to accept this mission, they will see Officer Tim Pappas with the Cincinnati Police Department and his dog "Laser" in action. Laser will do a building search to find the bad guy. Laser was recently awarded "Top Dog" in region 5 (Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky) and has won several National Championships from the United States Police Competitions. (*Dress in weather appropriate clothing since parts of the 2 hour K-9 demonstration will be held outdoors*). Agents will also enjoy lunch with the officers. Register for the mission online at montgomeryohio.org. Minimum 15. Cost \$50.

Plan for summer fun now!

Think warm thoughts

Sign-ups begin March 16

Summer is time for fun and relaxation and the City of Montgomery pool is the perfect place to unwind and enjoy the season. The pool is a great way to stay active in the summer heat and— best of all — it's an

activity that can be enjoyed by the whole family. Pool parties, Dive-In Movies, weekly kids fun activity, July 4th Splashtacular games, basketball, table tennis, tether ball, sliding down the water slide, and cannonballs off the diving board are fun activities that you and your family can enjoy at the pool. Imagine the sun on your face, a warm summer breeze, smiles and laughter galore, relaxing on a lounge chair, and the memories you will have this summer!

Membership sign-ups begin on March 16 at www.montgomeryohio.org.

And the coloring contest winner is...

Brian Yoon

Brian Yoon earned the grand prize for the City's annual Holiday Coloring Contest.

Brian created a unique snowman and won the contest for best overall color. After the award ceremony, Brian and other winners of the contest, along with Santa himself, rode down Montgomery Road, where he helped Mayor Harbison turn on the lights to the City's 40 foot Norway Spruce Christmas tree that officially kicked off the holiday season in Montgomery!



French tradition to make local debut

La Chandeleur is a family and gourmet tradition in France where it is customary to prepare crepes for the celebration that symbolize wealth, good crops and health for the New Year. Community members are invited to attend La Fete de la Chandeleur scheduled for



Sunday, January 25, from 2:30-5:00 p.m. in Terwilliger Lodge, 10530 Deerfield Road.

Sponsored by Montgomery's Sister Cities Commission, Alliance Francaise of Cincinnati and Victoria Travel, this

family event will feature crepes prepared by Jean-Robert Cuisine, in addition to sparkling cider, French music and interactive children's games and activities. Visit the Alliance Francaise web site to complete the required registration form (visit <http://www.france-cincinnati.com>). The admission fee is \$15 (adults); \$10 (children ages 12 and over) and \$5 (children under age 12).

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.

Questions about Programs?

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

Sensory Sundays return: tickets on sale January 6

A delightful collage for the senses, this three-part series caters to sight with a variety of displays, hearing with talented and soulful sounds of stand-out area musicians and taste with specialty samplers from local chefs. Reserve the dates now for this popular three-part series to be offered at Terwilliger Lodge on the following Sundays: February 15, March 1 and March 15. Each offering will be held from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. On sale starting January 6 at Montgomery City Hall or on the city web site, tickets are limited to 90 guests and are \$75 for the series. Single event tickets go on sale January 26 and are \$28 per ticket. Call 891-2424 for more information.

Can you help? Six volunteers are needed and only pay half price. Call 792-8329 to volunteer.

| SUNDAY | Taste Treats | Hear Jazz | See Stuff |
|--------------------|---|---|--|
| FEBRUARY 15 | Wildflower Café & Coffee House (organic, made from scratch foods from a restaurant that is located in a 100 year old house in downtown Mason) | Deron Bell (smooth jazzy/blues blend of sophisticated soulful melodies) | Mary & Chris Walden (acrylic wildlife paintings) |
| MARCH 1 | Relish Modern Tapas Restaurant (new gourmet, eclectic restaurant in Mason) | Dixie Karas Trio (popular lead vocalist, smooth jazz band) | Tehmina Hussain (oil paintings) |
| MARCH 15 | Brown Dog Café (upscale restaurant in Blue Ash, rated #11 by Cincinnati Magazine in March 2006) | Sylvain & Friends (eclectic jazz) | Susan Slaughter (archival prints of original images of Cincinnati area) Mark Meece (Tallstacks 2006 photos) |

Tummy Tucks/PILATES

Tuesdays & Thursdays • 6-7 pm

Jan 27 to Mar 19 (16 classes) • Annex

Building (register at City Hall by Jan 22)

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 \$65 resident/\$70 non-resident*

20/20/20 Boomer Style

Tuesdays & Thursdays • 9-10 am

Jan 27 to Mar 19 (16 classes) • Annex Building

(register at City Hall by Jan 22)

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 teaching 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 \$65 resident/\$70 non-resident*

Energize with Yoga!

Mondays • 9-10 am

Jan 26 to Mar 16 (8 classes) • Annex Building

(register at City Hall by Jan 22)

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 at the beginner level and we'll move forward from there. *Min 8. Cost \$50*

Power Ball I & II

Power Ball I: Mondays • Jan 26 to

Mar 16 (8 classes) • 4:45-5:45 pm

Power Ball II: Thursdays • Jan 29 to

Mar 19 (8 classes) • 4:45-5:45 pm

All class held at Annex Building (register online or at City Hall by Jan 22)

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 \$55 each or \$90 for both classes*

Kick it UP a Notch

Taekwondo Lessons

Mondays & Wednesdays • 6:30-7:30 pm 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 \$35 resident/\$40 non-resident per month.*

Mayor
Gerri Harbison

Vice Mayor
Ken Suer

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

Clerk of Council
Susan Hamm

City Manager
Cheryl A. Hilvert

All Around Town

Free CPR class planned January 19

Would you know what to do if someone you loved started choking, stopped breathing, or went into cardiac arrest? The City of Montgomery Fire Department will conduct an introductory course on CPR. This course, entitled "CPR for Family and Friends", is being offered free to any Montgomery resident.

The course is offered quarterly at the Montgomery Safety Center, 10150 Montgomery Road. The next class will be Monday, January 19, starting promptly at 7:00 p.m, ending at approximately 10:00 p.m.

The class is an introductory course from the American Heart Association which involves instructional training, without the need for a practical or written test. To reserve your spot, call the

Montgomery Fire Department at 985-1633.

Holiday trees and greenery can be recycled FREE

Residents who want to participate in the City's tree, wreath and swag curbside collection program will **not** be required to have a yard waste sticker attached to the items.

To have your Christmas tree, wreath or swag collected simply place it at the curb and Rumpke will pick it up on one of the following three Saturday dates:

- Saturday, January 3
- Saturday, January 10
- Saturday, January 17

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

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

MCLA filled for 2009, apply now for 2010

The Montgomery Citizens' Leadership Academy (MCLA) will begin its new season January 8 with 27 participants. Although

registration is closed for this year, residents and small and large business representatives may apply for enrollment in MCLA 2010.

Those interested should contact Ray Kingsbury,

Director of Citizen Engagement, at 792-8359, or email to rkingsbury@ci.montgomery.oh.us. For information about the MCLA program, visit www.montgomeryohio.org/academy.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

JANUARY • JANUARY • JANUARY • JANUARY

| | | | |
|----|--|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 | New Year's Day/City Offices Closed (trash delayed one day) | | |
| 2 | School's out Trip | meet at Swaim Lodge | 9 am-5 pm |
| 5 | Arts Commission | City Hall | 5 pm |
| 5 | Planning Commission | City Hall | 7:30 pm |
| 6 | Sensory Sunday ticket sales begin for series | | |
| 7 | Council Business Session | City Hall | 7 pm |
| 8 | Parks & Recreation Commission | City Hall | 6:30 pm |
| 12 | Beautification Commission | City Hall | 9 am |
| 13 | Environmental Advisory Commission | City Hall | 4:30 pm |
| 14 | Landmarks Commission | City Hall | 7 pm |
| 17 | Cardboard Recycling | 7315 Cornell Road | 10 am - 1 pm |
| 19 | Martin Luther King Day/City Offices Closed (trash pickup as usual) | | |
| 20 | Sister Cities Commission | City Hall | 7 pm |
| 21 | Council Work Session | City Hall | 7 pm |
| 25 | Alliance Francaise Fete | Terwilliger Lodge | 2-4 pm |
| 25 | La Fete de la Chandeleur | Terwilliger Lodge | 2:30-5 pm |
| 26 | Planning Commission | City Hall | 7:30 pm |
| 27 | Board of Zoning Appeals | City Hall | 7:30 pm |
| 31 | Fourth Quarter 2008 Taxes Due | | |