

February 2009

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Will YOU be prepared for a winter storm?

Old Man Winter has tossed a few punches at the area, but — so far — nothing that crews could not handle (at least as of press time). The relatively mild winter weather combined with use of sensible salting strategies during and following wintry precipitation means that the City's stockpile of road salt appears to be adequate to de-ice roadways in Montgomery during the remainder of whatever winter weather may come over the next couple of months.



Residents are reminded that when snowfall accumulation requires 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.

Residents can keep informed about Snow Emergency declarations, on-street parking prohibitions and snow removal operations in a number of ways:

- Make certain you have registered under the City's **Code RED** notification system that will send an automated phone message to the designated phone number of Montgomery residents. Register at <http://www.montgomeryohio.org/codered.htm>.
- Check information on one of the four major TV stations in Cincinnati. Each will include "Snow Emergency" declarations and on-street parking

prohibitions on their automated "crawler" message during local programming.

- Call the City of Montgomery Snow Line at 792-8345 for an automated message providing updates about snow removal operations during and following winter storms.
- Check out the City's Snow Removal Policy and Snow Removal Priority Map on the City website.

The unpredictable Cincinnati weather means that winter storms and accumulating snowfalls could occur at any time over the next few months. The City's entire staff is prepared for questions or problems that result from winter storms. Crews are dedicated to keep roads cleared and to keep residents informed about efforts to provide safe winter travel conditions.

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

FREE: Ideas for fun in a tough economy

Fine Arts Sampler

Sunday, February 22 • 2-4 pm • City Council Chambers

In a collaborative effort, Montgomery's Art Commission and the Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Orchestra have been accepted as participants in the 2009 Fine Arts Fund Sampler Weekend event sponsored by Macy's.

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

This free event is open to the public. The Fine Arts Fund Sampler Weekend includes 130 free events held at 40 Cincinnati area venues. Visit www.fineartsfund.org for a detailed schedule.

Valentine's Concert

Sunday, February 22 • 7 pm • St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

The Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Orchestra will present a romantic evening of music with the *Bacchanale from Samson and Delilah* by Saint-Saens, Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun* and a special appearance by harpist McKenzie Hammel, a first-place winner in the 2007 Young Artist Competition.



St. Barnabas Episcopal Church is located at 10345 Montgomery Road. The concert is FREE and open to the public. Make this Valentine's remarkable and special with a musical serenade for your sweetheart!

Poor economic climate stalls local projects

The housing and financial problems facing the nation have now impacted the progress of local community development projects, including the redevelopment of an auto dealership, a project at Montgomery Inn and work on Montgomery Row Condos.

At its January 7 meeting, City Council received a request from Bear Creek Capital to table consideration of the company's Preliminary Development Plan for the old Montgomery Chevrolet and Ford sites while they continue to try and structure

agreements with the owner and lessee of the Montgomery Ford site. It is not known when the site plan will be reconsidered.

Montgomery Inn has also reported to Council that plans have been placed on hold for the outdoor dining area due to the costs of construction and the general economic climate.

The housing market and financial issues have stalled the Montgomery Row residential condominium project on the corner of Remington and Main. The City has worked with the owner to have the buildings secured for safety reasons. It

is not known when construction will begin again. In the spring, the City will ensure the disturbed areas are seeded to prevent erosion and that the sidewalk on Remington is in good shape.

City staff continues to monitor economic conditions and the effects on local businesses. During the coming year the Development Department will focus its attention on both the commercial corridor and Heritage District to assess the best types of business development in these areas. The goal is to work with the owners of existing properties and businesses to strengthen these areas.

Crawford named Mayor's Court Clerk

Ja'net Crawford has been appointed as Montgomery Mayor's Court Clerk. Ja'net previously worked with the City of Mount Healthy, where she worked for three years as Mayor's Court Clerk



Ja'net Crawford

and Police Department Dispatcher.

Ja'net is a graduate of Kings High School and recently obtained her Bachelor of Science degree from Kaplan University.

COUNCIL CORNER

Montgomery City Council will meet in its regular monthly business session on February 4 at the City Hall. Meetings begin at 7 p.m., with public comments welcomed on each item before Council.

Pending Legislation

■ An ordinance amending portions of Sections 151.32 and 151.34 of the Code of Ordinances providing parking and landscape/screening regulations (*2nd Reading*)

New Legislation

■ A resolution authorizing lawn mowing contract extensions for the mowing of various parcels throughout the City of Montgomery during 2009

■ A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Urban Paving Project Agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation to plane and resurface US 22 in the City of Montgomery between 13.81 and 14.51

■ A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Horton Emergency Vehicles Company for the purchase of a 2009 Horton 553 Type III Ambulance

■ A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Statewide Ford for the purchase of four police cruisers

■ A resolution adopting an

Identity Theft (Red Flag) Policy

■ A resolution authorizing the issuance of an Economic Development Liquor License to Dhilwan, Inc. (dba Kanag)

Recent Council Action

JANUARY 7 BUSINESS SESSION

Approved Legislation

Resolution No. 1, 2009

■ A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with CDS Associates, Inc. for professional services related to general engineering and architectural services (*passed 7-0*)

Resolution No. 2, 2009

■ A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Ray Kingsbury for professional services related to

communications, public relations, and citizen outreach (*passed 7-0*)

Resolution No. 3, 2009

■ A resolution authorizing an amendment to the current contract with Donnellon, Donnellon and Miller for legal services to the City of Montgomery (*passed 7-0*)

Resolution No. 4, 2009

■ A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a labor agreement with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Ohio Council 8, AFL-CIO for wages and benefits from September 1,

2008 through August 31, 2011 (*passed 7-0*)

Ordinance No. 1, 2009

■ An ordinance correcting attachments to Ordinance 17, 2008, and declaring an emergency (*passed 7-0*)

JANUARY 21 WORK SESSION

Approved Legislation

Resolution No 5, 2009

■ A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract to purchase property located at 7777 Ted Gregory Way (*passed 7-0*)

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

A new forum encourages more citizen participation



This month's message by Council Member Todd Steinbrink

Beginning last October, the City initiated an "Open City Hall" forum on the City's web site as a new channel for citizen participation and feedback. (See related stories at right and on page 4.) This new program is a direct result of the City's Strategic Plan initiative to "foster 2-way dialogue between the City and the Community." In support of the initiative, residents are encouraged to take advantage of this web-based forum to engage Montgomery's leadership through on-line public conversation. City teams will be assigned the task of reviewing these statements and making recommendations on possible action plans. City Council will regularly review the ideas for consideration as they work through various planning exercises.

So far three topics have been opened – Energy Conservation, Downtown Shopping and New Year's Resolutions. The City will continue to open new

topics that are timely and the hope is that our citizens will spark new ideas for public discussion.

The responses to date have been encouraging. It has proven to be more than just an online "Suggestion Box," which have a history of yielding anonymous complaints, but rather it has produced some very creative ideas and actionable suggestions for improving our city.

For example, several of the energy conservation postings helped precipitate the City's recent initiative of placing 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 later in 2009. The City is exploring additional diesel fuel and gas saving alternatives within the fleet of vehicles it uses to reduce waste and promote savings. Now that we have a dedicated volunteer commission on the topic, I'm sure we will continue to move forward on many energy conservation and sustainability

initiatives within the City.

Hopefully, more of our citizens will take a few moments periodically to review the topics available and add to the discussion. Montgomery is very fortunate to have so many talented and dedicated people with so much to offer in terms of leadership. It is also a great help to those of us asked to represent you, to hear from more people about a wide variety of interesting and

important topics. The City and City Council are excited about this new tool, and the expansion of our ability to collect ideas to benefit Montgomery.

To access the forum, please visit www.montgomeryohio.org and look for the "Open City Hall" tab in the upper center section of the home page. We look forward to hearing from you!

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

Agreements expand parking options in Heritage District

A review of comments provided in the Open City Hall forum on the City's web site provided insight that most respondents had some level of familiarity about the Heritage District and what it has to offer. They also said they found new and interesting businesses by walking along the brick sidewalks. One issue that was not mentioned in responses — but is often asked — is, "Where can one park when visiting or shopping in the Heritage District?"

One area to consider for parking is the public parking lot on Shelly Lane. This public parking area includes a City owned parking lot, as well as two other areas made available for public parking through lease agreements between the City of Montgomery, Krombholz Jewelers and the Montgomery Lodge 94 F. & A.M. (also known as the Montgomery Masonic Lodge).

The lease agreements for parking at these two privately owned parking lots provide more than 80 parking spaces connecting directly with the City owned public parking lot. The combination of publicly owned and leased spaces provide ample parking for anyone looking for a place to park while shopping, dining or simply taking in the sights and sounds of the Heritage District.

Since some parking spaces remain under private ownership or include restricted times for general public parking, motorists are urged to obey posted signs restricting or prohibiting parking in the Shelly Lane public parking lot. Some privately owned parking lots are available, but restricted to patrons of specific businesses.

City philosophy to be national topic

The City of Montgomery has once again been asked to present at an international "best practices" conference on its high performance organization/management philosophy. The City's management philosophy and tools have regularly been recognized by professional associations across the nation, as well as communities internationally. The philosophy has won numerous awards and opportunities to present to

colleagues in recent years.



The International City/County Management Association Leading Practices Conference

will be held February 12-13 in Asheville, North Carolina. The conference will focus on the progressive management work of Daniel Pink in his book *A Whole New Mind*. The International City/County Management Association has

worked cooperatively with Daniel Pink to bring progressive management practices to communities worldwide.

Several Montgomery staff members have been invited to present during the conference, including City Manager Cheryl Hilvert, Assistant City Manager Wayne Davis, Fire Chief Paul Wright, Assistant Public Works Director Brian Riblet and City Arborist Terry Willenbrink. Their presentations will focus on the use of teamwork and collaboration in the City's management practices and systems.

Online forum focuses on Heritage District

In October, the City became one of only nine cities in the country to participate in a new on-line communication project known as Open City Hall. Each month the City posts a question of interest regarding public policy and topical issues. Residents can log onto the City website, click *Open Forum*, then provide input, read and respond to other citizens' comments. The project was developed to increase citizen engagement and further improve trust between the community and its government.

The second question in the series began at the end of November and focused on the downtown Heritage District. The question asks ***“What would make it more appealing for you to shop, dine, or obtain services in the Downtown Heritage District?”***

More than 30 responses have been posted from interested residents. While the posts represented a wide variety of creative ideas, several general themes emerged.

The City is committed to using Open City Hall to improve two-way communication. As a result, staff is reviewing the suggestions carefully to see what new initiatives can be considered. Here is a list of the general themes and staff responses:

Seek more affordable, family oriented restaurants and businesses...

The City would like to increase the amount of “foot traffic” downtown to help the small businesses operating there and create a positive atmosphere for residents to enjoy. Part of this strategy includes offering a mix of businesses to attract a wide variety of visitors. While a number of our establishments may be considered “upscale” and cater to more expensive tastes, the area does have

businesses that offer more affordable options for dining and retail.

The challenge in the Heritage District is that it is small and lacks the “critical mass” needed for high-traffic retail.

Additionally, real estate values are high and the leasable spaces are rather small. It is difficult for any business to be competitive offering the same type of merchandise available at larger stores, therefore many small neighborhood business districts are developed as small boutique/specialty shops where items are not routinely discounted.

The City will continue to make investments into the infrastructure of downtown to make the area an inviting place to visit and will work with the new downtown organization, Prosper Montgomery, to assess what types of business to encourage. Also, implementing the City's strategic plan includes developing marketing materials which can be used when desirable businesses express interest. Staff will work with commercial property owners to help identify prospective tenants that would add to the mix of current businesses.

Public open space...

When the City purchased the Triangle lot in 2002, there was discussion of making that a large public square/park but the traffic flow all around the space decreases the desirability of that location as a public open space.

Let your voice be heard!

FEBRUARY'S TOPIC:

Public wireless Internet access

If free Wi-Fi access were available in commercial and public areas in Montgomery, would you use it? If so, where would you use it? If you would not use it, why not?

Montgomery would like to determine whether there are public spaces in which there is significant demand for Wi-Fi. To give your thoughts, point your browser to www.montgomeryohio.org/peak.htm.

Ultimately, the City went with a project that has pumped more life into downtown and become the home for twelve new businesses, yet still allowed for Triangle Park. Parrot Alley also is a public space the City added to the

downtown. The Universalist Church is another City owned property that can be used for public gatherings.

In 2009, The City will undertake a complete renovation of Neully Plaisance Plaza to make it more user-friendly. The Park Study, completed in June 2008, proposes the continued effort by the City to look for opportunities to add to this mix of public space in the downtown Heritage District as those options become available and meet with identified needs.

More activities and events...

While it is hard to justify closing Montgomery Road more than a couple of times per year, the City does believe that additional smaller events, coordinated with downtown property owners and businesses, is a good idea and hopes to increase its collaborative efforts with Prosper Montgomery.

Better identification of the businesses located downtown through marketing and signage...

The Heritage District businesses have started a collaboration titled Prosper Montgomery and opportunities to work together to meet the challenges of marketing

will be addressed collaboratively.

The City worked with a design company on directional signage ten years ago to come up with and install the current signage throughout the Heritage District. That signage, however, does not stand out enough and reconsideration could be useful.

More specialty stores: for example a theatre, book store, ice cream parlor...

As previously stated, the City supports a mix of businesses and would like to see the businesses be successful. The suggested types of businesses, like a book store, are difficult to recruit because they are not competitive with larger chains and available venues do not allow for the larger scale enterprises. Currently in the Heritage District, ice cream can be purchased at Euro Café and frozen yogurt at Neon Lites. The Esquire and Mariemont Theatres are good models for small movie theatres and expansion of one of those businesses to Montgomery could be explored as part of a new development since no old theatres exist for re-use.

These five themes came to the City's attention via the input and comments on Open City Hall by interested community members and the City will continue to listen to this input and explore opportunities to better provide valued services to the community and work with partners, both residential and commercial, to maintain and grow the sense of community that makes Montgomery a popular place to shop, dine and obtain services.

Watch Open City Hall on the City web site for more probing questions that ask you for your thoughts and input on how everyone can work together to further improve Montgomery.

Planned February 21

Groups invited to annual leadership forum

Having outgrown City Hall, this year the annual Community Leadership Forum will convene at the Assembly of God Church on Pfeiffer Road from 8:30 a.m.

to 11:00 a.m. The popular summit of City Officials/Staff, Boards and Commissions, Civic Collaborative Groups, Neighborhood Associations,

Leadership Academy Participants and Churches is an opportunity to cross communicate about timely topics on the Montgomery community "radar".

This year, the two and a half hour interactive dialogue will focus on the buzz around town about new and proposed developments, the economy and City Hall, our recycling future and engaging the un-engaged. The forum offers an excellent opportunity to glean timely information in a relaxed atmosphere and contribute to the community's future direction.

If you represent a community group and are not sure if you are on the invitation list, contact Susan Hamm, Council Clerk, at 792-8314, or by email at shamm@ci.montgomery.oh.us.

Entries sought for Art Commission's 2009 Photography Competition

Photographers are encouraged to focus their attention on Montgomery's 22nd Photo Competition and Exhibition sponsored by the Arts Commission. The contest is open to adults and students. The Reception and Exhibit are scheduled for Sunday, March

15, from 1-4 p.m., in the Universalist Church (*corner of Montgomery and Remington Roads*).

A maximum of three entries per photographer will be accepted. A non-refundable, \$10 fee (adults) and \$5 (students) is required for each entry. Entry forms will be available February 13th at City Hall, local photo labs and

framing galleries or can be obtained by visiting www.MontgomeryOhio.org.

Corson Hirschfeld, nationally published and exhibited photographer, will jury all qualifying entries. Winners will receive a monetary award for their creative work. The deadline to enter the Photo Competition is Friday, March 6.



Photography Workshop...Making Better Photographs

For the second year, the Arts Commission is providing an opportunity to enhance your photo taking ability by offering a photography workshop conducted by Corson Hirschfeld, photography competition judge. He will discuss various aspects of creating a good photograph (digital or film media) through a combination of instruction, examples and discussion. In addition he

will discuss at least one print shared by each participant.

The workshop is scheduled for Saturday, March 14, from 12:30-4 pm in Swaim Lodge (corner of Cooper & Zig Zag Roads). The class is limited to 15 participants. The fee schedule is \$35 (*Montgomery residents*) and \$45 (*non-residents*) and \$25 (*full time students*).

For specific information about

the workshop or to obtain a class registration form (beginning February 13), visit www.MontgomeryOhio.org or call 792-8329. Please note that the two photography events described above are independent of each other. Photographers can participate in either or both events. However, photos brought to the photography class cannot be entered in the current or future Montgomery Photo Competitions.

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**

Studies show that pets are good medicine

You've probably noticed that when you pet a soft, warm cat or play fetch with a dog whose tail won't stop wagging, you relax and your heart feels a little warmer. Scientists have noticed the same thing, and they've started to explore the complex way animals affect human emotions and physiology.

The resulting studies have shown that owning and handling animals significantly benefits health, and not just for the young. In fact, pets may help elderly owners live longer, healthier, and more enjoyable lives.

A study published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* in May of



1999 demonstrated that independently living seniors that have pets tend to have better physical health and mental well-being than those who don't. They're more active, cope better with stress, and have better overall health.

A 1997 study showed that elderly pet owners had significantly lower blood pressure overall than their contemporaries without pets.

There are a number of explanations for exactly how

pets accomplish all these health benefits. First of all, pets need walking, feeding, grooming, fresh water, and they encourage lots of playing and petting. All of these activities require some action from owners. Even if it's just getting up to let a dog out a few times a day or brushing a cat, any activity can benefit the cardiovascular system and help keep joints limber and flexible. Consistently performing this kind of minor exercise can keep pet owners able to carry out their normal activities of daily living. Pets may also aid seniors simply by providing some physical contact. Many benefits of pet ownership are less tangible, though. Pets are an excellent source of companionship, for example.

However, pets are a huge responsibility, so before obtaining an animal for yourself or a senior make sure you accept both the good and the bad. Also, consider what accommodations can be made when the owner may be unable to care for their pet.

ICE: In Case of Emergency

Almost everyone carries a cell phone with names & numbers stored in its memory. Unfortunately, no one, except the cell phone owner, knows which of these numbers belong to their closest family or friends.

If you happened to be involved in an accident or fell ill, the responding emergency service personnel may have access to your cell phone, but wouldn't know who to call. To assist emergency personnel, the "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) Campaign was developed and is catching on quickly. "ICE" is a method of contact during emergency situations.

With cell phones carried by the majority of the population, all that is necessary is to store the number of a contact person or persons who

should be contacted during emergency under the name "ICE" (In Case Of Emergency).



The concept was developed by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were almost always cell phones with patients, but they didn't know which number to call. Therefore, he thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose. In an emergency situation, emergency service personnel and hospital staff would be

able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number stored as "ICE." For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3, etc. Some cellular telephone manufacturers even have a special red color "ICE" listing where several important numbers can be listed in case of an emergency.

Volunteers sought for Bastille Day

In less than six months, the 20th Bastille Day street party, sponsored by the Sister Cities Commission, will come to fruition. Until then, there's a plethora of tasks to complete to ensure another successful family event in honor of our City's friendship with Neuilly-Plaisance, France, our Sister City.

Currently, the committee is comprised of ten volunteers, three employees and a council member. Specific roles performed by the members include: Restaurant Recruitment; Entertainment Features; Publicity; Marketing; Art Exhibit; Diaper Derby; Sponsorships; Kids Cabaret;



Walking Tour; Beer & Wine Booths; Set-Up and Take-Down. Needless to say, the committee would be enhanced by additional volunteers willing to assist with planning event tasks.

The committee will meet once a month on designated Tuesdays at 5 p.m. in City Hall. Contact Joyce Yock at 792-8329 to share your time and talents for this renowned event or to obtain more information.

Hats Off...



to thirteen teens that volunteered their time in December to assist with two City sponsored events: *Holiday in the Village* and *Breakfast with Santa*. Their efforts helped to make these popular family events enjoyable and successful. A grateful thank you is extended to **Annie Blood, Bradi Banner, Taylor Bowling, Beth Cameron, Laura Cameron, Jane Finocharo, Brittany Bader, Bria Clough, Christine Lu, Meredith Murphy, Corinne Murphy, Annie Roessler and Becca Roessler.**

Environmental Advisory Commission seeks member

A volunteer leadership position is available on the City's Environmental Advisory Commission. Comprised of seven members, the team meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. in City Hall.

Needless to say, with environmental topics in the nation's forefront, the commission deals with a vast and varied topic list to address. The commission's initiatives and educational programs

include recycling, composting, storm water management, green building processes, protection of our natural resources, and reduction of litter, air and noise pollution. Most recently, team members have focused on the upcoming March and April *Green Landscaping Workshops* that will be hosted in Terwilliger Lodge.

February 10 or would like more specific information about this volunteer leadership role, Contact Joyce Yock, Volunteer Coordinator (792-8329).

Oops...

"Opulent Christmas" was designed by Wanda Kinzie in the recent Festival of Trees competition. In the January *Bulletin*, the tree's design was erroneously attributed.

If you would like to attend the next commission meeting on

Montgomery Park gets two new play units

Two new play units will be added to Montgomery Park. The new equipment is a combination of play that focuses on building strength, coordination and agility in kids ranging in age from 5-12 years old. This new equipment is part of the plans set forth in the Park Study that was completed with

community input in June 2008.

The scheduled date for installation and completion of this project is February 6, weather permitting. As the weather breaks, escape cabin fever and check out the new Satellite and Intensity play structures at Montgomery Park!



February Volunteer Opportunities

■ **Sensory Sundays Assistants** (*Adults*)
Sunday, February 15, March 1 & 15
9 - 11 a.m. or 4:15 - 7:30 p.m.
Help with set up, registration and serving food & wine. (See story on page 11)

■ **Service Department Cardboard Recycling Drop-off**
(*Adults, Teens & Families*)
Saturday, February 21, 10 a.m.-1 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.



Seeing the best during the worst

The tornado of 1999 impacted many in Montgomery, with the F-4 tornado leaving devastation in its path. Even in the City's tragedy emerged heroic stories of rescue and countless people who offered support, self sacrifice and selfless actions in the moments, hours, days and months following the disaster.

As the community approaches the 10th anniversary of the event, most remembered in the minds of the many individuals and families impacted, are the people; people who gave with their hearts and their hands to make a difference for those neighbors, friends and even strangers in need.

Cartoonist Jim Borgman's drawing of a number of hands clasped together and holding up each other with the statement "we're all in this together" summarizes the feeling of community that sprung up among neighbors, pulled support from other communities, tied the faith-

“ We went to bed on the night of April 8th as neighbors, and in the aftermath of the tornado we became a community. ”

— Jill Cole
Montgomery Resident

based groups together to reach out to meet needs, inspired creative solutions from City staff and inspired people to work with such purpose.

Then Mayor Dick Tuten recalls, "It was dark when the phone rang. The power was off. My neighbor said that a tornado had just struck their house and damaged their roof and that there was other damage in the neighborhood."

In a very short time many service crews from 35 municipalities sent their crews to help.

Five days after the tornado a

large FEMA group arrived to review the damage and the damage assessments made by the City staff and the County.

City Council had an emergency meeting and authorized funding to help in the recovery.

The City staff, in partnership with St. Barnabas Church, established a volunteer registration site to cover the City of Montgomery and Symmes and Sycamore Townships.

Jill Cole, one resident who lost her entire home, reflects on that year and believes that it was both the best and the worst year

in one. She said, "People move to neighborhoods for lots of reasons. My guess is that many of us moved to Montgomery Woods for the trees. But in a matter of moments what defined us was taken away. But we went to bed on the night of April 8th as neighbors, and in the aftermath of the tornado we became a community."

These comments, although from different perspectives, focus on the impact and a sense of togetherness that came from the timely, collective response that came from so many in order to ease the suffering and restore a sense of normalcy to the daily lives of those that had lost something or someone.

On April 5, the community will gather for reflection, commemoration and rejuvenation for the occasion of the 10-year landmark of this significant date in history.

Watch for details in the March *Bulletin* and on the City web site.

Get to know your parks

SWAIM PARK: Montgomery's oldest

During the PARK study conducted by the City and the Parks and Recreation Commission in 2007, it was revealed that a large number of local residents did not know about some of the parks, especially those further away from their home. Thanks to the City's sidewalk system, any City park is just a walk away.



The park offers a 1/2 mile walking trail with plenty of benches and tables. A large gazebo sits next to the pond, with two pavilions that can be reserved for picnics or gatherings.

Swaim also offers restrooms, two ball fields, two tennis

courts, a sand volleyball court, a basketball court, and a playground designed for younger children. The park has two parking lots, one off Cooper Road, and the other off of Zig Zag Road.

Located in the park is the 1832 Wilder-Swaim farm house, which is a nationally registered historical building and a Montgomery Landmark. Next to the farm house is the Swaim Lodge located near the Zig Zag

Road parking lot. Able to accommodate up to 50 people, the lodge can be rented by calling 891-2424 or on the City's website at www.montgomeryohio.org.

During every Wednesday in July, a noon concert series is sponsored by the Recreation Department. The park is also the location of the Harvest Moon Festival — complete with hay rides — on the first weekend in October.

Over the next six months, features in the Montgomery Bulletin will introduce residents to the parks with which they may not be familiar. The first is Swaim Park.

Swaim Park is probably the City's most visible and popular Park in Montgomery's park system. It is a 13 acre park located at the intersection of Cooper Road and Zig Zag Road. The park is one of the City's oldest, starting out years ago as a local golf course. The golf course was transformed into the Swaim Field subdivision. In fact, visitors still find golf balls while digging in the rich soil or along the two pond edges. One pond is 16-feet deep in the middle, while the smaller pond in 6-feet deep. Both are home to a variety of frogs, turtles and fish. Each is stocked annually with Bass, Bluegill, and Catfish. Fishing is permitted, with residents 16 and under not requiring a fishing license.

And there are some fish to be caught. About five years ago, a 40 pound channel Catfish was caught by a fisherman in the larger pond. The fisherman released the fish back into the pond, so another fisherman may end up with a major surprise one day.

Rain Garden series begins March 5

Mark your calendar now to attend the five free Green Landscaping Presentations that will be held at Terwilliger Lodge on Thursdays (March 5, March 12, March 19, March 26 and April 2), from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Visit the City's website or review the January *Bulletin* for a list of the presenters and their topic.

The Green Landscaping series will conclude on Saturday, April 4, with a hands-on Rain Garden Design Workshop from 8:30 am-3 pm at Terwilliger Lodge. Experts will take you through all the steps of planning, designing and maintaining your Rain Garden so that you can build your own Rain Garden.

- **What is a Rain Garden?**
- **Why do we need Rain Gardens?**
- **Getting Started in 10 Easy Steps**
- **Soil Types, Water Infiltration, Soil Amendments**
- **Outside Hands-On Demonstration**
- **Design-Sizing & Location**
- **Selecting Plants for Rain Gardens**
- **Putting it to Work — Designing your Rain Garden**

The \$25 workshop fee will include a Rain Garden manual with additional materials, lunch and beverages. Don't delay! The registration deadline is

Thursday, April 2, for this workshop limited to 25 participants. Registration forms are available at City Hall or by visiting http://www.ci.montgomery.oh.us/landscaping_workshop.com.

Attend any or all 6 sessions. The

mini-series and workshop are co-hosted by the City of Montgomery, City of Blue Ash and Amberley Village in partnership with Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities. Questions? Call City Hall (891-2424).

RecycleBankers recycled 162.3 tons during December!

During the month of December, the 2,831 residents participating in the RecycleBank Pilot Program recycled 162.3 tons of metal, glass, plastic, and paper!

Recycling efforts during December in Montgomery saved the equivalent of:

- 1,428 trees
- 22,903 gallons of gasoline
- Enough energy to power 28 homes for an entire year
- Reduced enough greenhouse gases to remove 104 cars from the road for an entire year

Don't have a RecycleBank cart? It's 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.

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

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 at 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 www.montgomeryohio.org. Minimum 15. Cost \$50.



Horseback Riding Overnight Adventure

Ages 10 and up

Thursday-Friday • March 26-27

9 am Thursday (returning 5 pm Friday) •

Salt Creek Ranch, Indiana (Meet & pickup at the Annex Building, 10115 Montgomery Road) (Register by March 15)

Have your child come and experience the excitement of horsemanship and outdoor fun at Salt Creek Ranch in Indiana. Introductory skills will be taught with an emphasis on safety and we'll ride for 2-3 hours each day depending on the weather. Kids will get to experience chores like brushing and feeding the horses as well as learn the basics of caring for a horse. Games, activities, s'mores and fun will also be a part of our adventure. Have your child's spring break be a fun filled memorable one with this overnight adventure! Signed waiver forms required. Volunteer chaperones needed. Call 792-8329 for volunteer information. Minimum 20. Cost: \$140

Preschool Drawing Classes

Ages 3½ to 6

Wednesdays • March 4 - April 15

(6 weeks) • **4-4:45 pm** (No class on Wednesday, March 25, due to spring break for Sycamore Schools)(Register by Feb 26)

Pre-school children's drawings are precious. Their simple images help them communicate. Young children spend the first three years of life discovering the world. They gather, collect, examine and process more stimuli in the pre-school years than any other time in their development, preparing their brains for more advanced learning. Drawing helps to refine needed skills for Kindergarten too. Minimum 6. Cost: \$67

Kids' Drawing Classes

Ages 6-12

Wednesdays • March 4 - April 15 (6

weeks) • **5-6 pm • Annex Building** (10115 Montgomery Road)(No class on Wednesday, March 25, due to spring break for Sycamore Schools)(Register by Feb 26)

Young artists will learn about optical art and the use of lines and shapes as well

as draw: fruit using a graphic style that is flattened and brightly colored, pizza with all the toppings and a landscape scene featuring a duck wading in the lake. Artists will learn to draw a reflection and refine the color pencil technique.

Minimum 6. Cost: \$67



Red Cross Babysitters Class

Ages 11-15

Friday, April 10 (Kids' day off school) •

8:30-4:30 pm • Annex Building

(10115 Montgomery Rd.)(Register by April 2)

Red Cross-trained babysitters are prepared to handle almost anything – and are in high demand!



Participants will learn accident prevention, diapering, feeding and emergency first aid. They will also learn to interact with children through appropriate games, toys and activities as well as how to prepare for their job as a babysitter. Red Cross babysitters earn trust from parents and they can increase income from babysitting! **Participants need to bring a sack lunch.** Minimum 20. Cost: \$55

Questions about
Programs?

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

DID YOU KNOW?

Fun Facts about the Montgomery Municipal Pool

- The pool is opened for 101 days per season weather permitting
- It takes approximately 235,000 gallons of water to fill the pool
- A gallon of water weighs 8 pounds
- The pool has a swim team, named the Montgomery Makos
- The pool can be rented for private after hours parties.
- The pool also offers ping pong, tetherball, grills, a gazebo, playground, basketball courts and concession stand.




Pool membership sign-ups start March 16! For additional information visit our website at www.montgomeryohio.org.

Tickets on sale now!

Sensory Sundays start February 15

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. The three-part series will be offered at Terwilliger Lodge on Sundays, February 15, March 1 and March 15. Each offering will be held from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. Seats are on sale now at Montgomery City Hall or on the city web site. Seats are limited to 90 guests and are \$75 for the series. Single event seats are \$28. 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)

NO INCREASE: Pool memberships on sale March 16

Standard memberships (*single, family, residents/couple, non residents and businesses*) remain the same as in 2008 AND we have added new options! See the March *Bulletin* for more details.

Here's what's already planned:

June 12

Dive in Movie & Luau Party
Complete with live DJ, free snowcones, dancing and a movie

July 4

Splashtacular event
With games and prizes

August 14

Dive in Movie & Luau Party

September 7

Doggie Swim
Let your K-9 go kerplunk!

Each Tuesday

Weekly kids' fun activity on Tuesdays at 3 p.m.

Swim Lessons

Learn to swim with group and private swim lessons.

Fitness Programs

Get fit with swim team and water classes

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 cool, catch some rays, meet new friends and — best of all— it's an activity that can be

enjoyed by the whole family. Sign ups begin March 16 at City Hall and at www.montgomeryohio.org.

Makos Swim Team wants YOU!

Individual skill development, teamwork and summer fun comprise the focus of the Montgomery Swim Team! Swim Team registrations begin on March 16 for returning members and April 6 for general registration to all pool members. A maximum of 30 swimmers per age division will be selected for the 2009 Montgomery Makos Swim Team. Cost is \$95 for the first swimmer and \$75 for additional swimmers in the family.

The swim team is a member of the Tri-County Swim League and will be participating in 6-7 season



meets, local swim invitationals and league championships at Miami University at the end of July.

A parent's informational meeting will be held in April. Summer practices run from 8:30 - 11 a.m. for one hour sessions, depending on age and skills. Practices run June 3 to July 24 starting with Meet the Coaches nights June 1 & 2 to welcome all team members and assess swimming abilities. The dates of the meets will be announced in early April.

For information about the swim team, call City Hall at 891-2424. A parent's packet and detailed schedule will be available in March at City Hall and online at www.montgomeryohio.org.

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

Need fingerprints taken for your job? These folks can help

Montgomery residents that are in need of having their fingerprints recorded for job processing can have this task performed at the Safety Center (10150 Montgomery Road) on Monday evenings from 5:30-6:30 pm. Volunteer fingerprint technicians will be on location to perform this task. The City does not provide the fingerprint card. It can be obtained from the prospective employee's company.



ranging in ages from their early 30s to over 70, this year's class is eager to go beyond the surface and experience first hand the innermost workings of community operations.

We are now accepting applications for the 2010 Montgomery Citizens' Leadership Academy. Limited to between 25 - 30 participants, the Academy is specially designed to help transform residents into the role of actively engaged citizens. Particularly targeted are those residents not normally involved in local government. The goal of the ten session Academy is to "harvest the experience dividend" in our residents and develop an ongoing positive relationship and two-way constructive dialogue between Leadership Academy graduates, City officials/staff and community leaders, ultimately building a stronger Montgomery.

The ten workshops, offering lecturettes, special guest speakers, off-site tours and participant interactive debate/discussion and simulation exercises, provides total immersion into issues that are important to the citizens of Montgomery. Sessions

with titles such as, *Zen and the Art of Citizenship, Dreams, Aspirations and Taxes... Is The Price Right?, and Sycamore Schools... Reading, Writing and Test Scores?*, provides a "look behind the curtain" of timely and provocative topics facing our Community.

Running January through March of each year, it is not too early to register for The Montgomery Citizens' Leadership Academy 2010. Call Ray Kingsbury at 792-8359, or visit www.montgomeryohio.org/academy for more information or an on line application.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

FEBRUARY • FEBRUARY • FEBRUARY • FEBRUARY

2	Arts Commission	City Hall	5 pm
2	Planning Commission	City Hall	7:30 pm
4	Council Business Session	City Hall	7 pm
9	Beautification & Tree Commission	City Hall	9 am
10	Environmental Advisory Commission	City Hall	4:30 pm
11	Landmarks Commission	City Hall	7 pm
12	Parks & Recreation Commission	City Hall	6:30pm
15	Sensory Sunday (<i>reservations required</i>)	Terwilliger Lodge	5 pm
16	Presidents Day	Sycamore Schools Closed	
16	Schools Out/Mission Possible	Terwilliger Lodge	9 am - 5 pm
16	Planning Commission	City Hall	7:30 pm
17	Sister Cities Commission	City Hall	7 pm
18	Council Work Session	City Hall	7 pm
21	Cardboard Recycling	7315 Cornell Road	10 am - 1 pm
22	Fine Arts Sampler	City Hall	2 - 4 pm
22	BAMSO Valentine Concert	St Barnabas Episcopal Church	7 pm
24	Board of Zoning Appeals	City Hall	7:30 pm

Leadership Academy inaugurates new class

Over subscribed again this year, The Montgomery Citizens' Leadership Academy launched its class of 2009 in January. Comprised of twenty seven residents and local business people