

Notification of News Release

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For Further Information Contact

Faith Dickerhoof
Assistant Community Engagement Director
O 513-792-8358 C 513-277-6458
fdickerhoof@ci.montgomery.oh.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(MONTGOMERY, Ohio) – **Arbor Day Foundation Names Montgomery Tree City USA ® Community.**

The City of Montgomery was recognized by the nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA community for its commitment to urban forestry.

Montgomery has earned this national designation for 15 years. Montgomery also achieved a 2010 Growth Award for the twelfth consecutive year.

The Tree City USA Program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

Montgomery has met the four standards to become a Tree City USA community. Tree City USA communities must have a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

“We commend Montgomery’s elected officials, volunteers and its citizens for providing vital care for its urban forest,” said John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation. “Trees provide numerous environmental, economical and health benefits to millions of people every day, and we applaud communities that make planting and caring for trees a top priority.”

Communities that earn Tree City USA recognition not only have taken the time to meet the four standards, they know that trees:

- Promote healthier communities by filtering the air we breathe by removing dust and other particles.
- Moderate climate, conserve water and provide vital habitat for wildlife.
- Reduce the heat island effect in urban areas caused by pavement and buildings.
- Increase property values and reduce energy use and add beauty to our homes and neighborhoods.

The Growth Award recognizes environmental improvement and higher levels of tree care. In 2010, the City of Montgomery hosted the Southwest Ohio Region Tree City USA Program and Banquet and also established a street tree program. The program provides property owners a \$50 co-pay to help offset the costs of a tree and labor to plant it in the public right-of-way. Both activities allowed the City to earn the Growth Award again this year.

More information about Tree City USA can be found at www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.

About the Arbor Day Foundation

The Arbor Day Foundation is a non-profit, environmental and education organization of more than one million members, with a mission to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. More information on the Foundation and its programs can be found at www.arborday.org.

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