

1999 Tornado

Ten years ago, a devastating tornado struck our community. What do you recall of that day and what part of that experience has shaped your life in a positive way?

Public comments as of October 27, 2011, 1:59 AM

All Participants



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Introduction

The 10th anniversary of the 1999 tornado that struck Montgomery is April 9th, 2009. This significant event meant a lot of different things to different people but most of all, the outcome was a true sense of community - the opportunity to come together to meet needs and to support our neighbors.

This month's forum is meant to provide an opportunity to share your experience, express thanks and to reconnect with that feeling of belonging that defines community. What do you recall of that day and what part of that experience has shaped your life in a positive way?

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As of October 27, 2011, 1:59 AM, this forum had:

Attendees:	78
Participants:	4
Minutes of Public Comment:	12

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Cherie Estill in Montgomery

March 15, 2009, 5:33 PM

We live on the South side of Montgomery (near Ronald Reagan Hwy) and were not directly affected. We did not hear the sirens and slept right through it all. We were waken, instead, by friends and family calling us to see if we were OK. We didn't even know about the tornado. Our friends said that we should turn on the TV, but we couldn't because we did not have any electricity. We also heard sirens all around us. We collected items for donation and took them to Sycamore United Presbyterian Church. We were very thankful that there was not more damage or loss of life because of the time of day. But we were sorry for the loss of lives that occurred. The response from the community, surrounding communities and people from very far away was amazing.

My son who is now in 7th grade was three years old at the time. This event was scary for him, as well, but he found comfort by saying, "I'm glad that our house is made out of bricks and not sticks."

Jill Cole in Cincinnati

March 13, 2009, 3:14 PM

I have often said that the year after the tornado was the worst year and the best year of my life...all at the same time.

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.

The things I learned? There are more that I could ever list. That people are inherently - and abundantly good, and will go to lengths beyond what I ever could have imagined to help in times of need... That people matter more than things... That your mom was right, and you should throw away your ugly pajamas and get some decent ones because you never know when you might wind up on national television wearing them... How difficult it can be to be so helpless, when you are accustomed to being the one who helps others.

I know all of us still hold close to our hearts the kindness, compassion, selflessness and courage shown by so many during what was a very difficult time. We will never forget, and we will always be grateful.

Name not shown in Montgomery

March 1, 2009, 4:21 PM

It was the day our neighborhood became a "community" in the true sense of the word. When we went to bed on April 8th many of us couldn't see each other through the woods. When we awoke - everything was changed. Very quickly and very quietly we became a community of friends and neighbors caring and looking out for each other in a very special way. Thanks friends!

John Perry in Montgomery

February 20, 2009, 10:40 AM

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All Participants

I was a resident of Anderson Township in 1999. Like many others, about a week after it struck, curiosity had me drive to the area.

The response of the community and volunteers was fantastic.

The review and planning of the City of Montgomery since that event has been thorough, and while I hope the plans never have to be used, from what I have learned all aspects of the city government are well prepared on how to respond.
