

Living in Montgomery

*Why did you move to Montgomery? Why do you stay in Montgomery?
Would you recommend Montgomery to your friends? Why or Why not?*

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

All Participants



As with any public comment process, participation in Open City Hall is voluntary. The statements in this record are not necessarily representative of the whole population, nor do they reflect the opinions of any government agency or elected officials.

Living in Montgomery

*Why did you move to Montgomery? Why do you stay in Montgomery?
Would you recommend Montgomery to your friends? Why or Why not?*

Introduction

The City of Montgomery occasionally holds focus groups with new residents and asks why they moved to Montgomery. Many respond with items such as the school system, location, parks, historic downtown and property values. Now it is important that we hear from you.

Living in Montgomery

*Why did you move to Montgomery? Why do you stay in Montgomery?
Would you recommend Montgomery to your friends? Why or Why not?*

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

Attendees:	94
Participants:	15
Minutes of Public Comment:	45

Living in Montgomery

Why did you move to Montgomery? Why do you stay in Montgomery? Would you recommend Montgomery to your friends? Why or Why not?

All Participants who selected 'Yes'

Name not shown in Montgomery

September 26, 2009, 8:13 PM

I say yes

We moved here last year for a variety of reasons. We moved here with the intent to stay for the next 30+ years and so far we are extremely pleased with our decision. Some of the reasons we chose Montgomery include 1)Sycamore schools 2)We really enjoy walking and were very impressed with the extensive sidewalk system 3)Proximity to work and amenities 4)Parks 5)City services & community events. We definitely recommend Montgomery to our friends!

RICHARD HAHN in Montgomery

September 9, 2009, 4:02 PM

I say yes

The City of Montgomery and the house we selected appealed to us, after living for three years in a hotel apartment in downtown Cincinnati. We returned to our house in Montgomery after a six year absence due to job assignments in NYC and LA, because we have come to appreciate all that Montgomery has to offer.

Name not shown in Montgomery

August 27, 2009, 10:11 AM

I say yes

We moved to Montgomery for the Sycamore School District, leaving Clifton reluctantly because we loved being able to walk everywhere. What we discovered is that we can still walk to an awful lot -- unlike most of the newer suburbs, we have restaurants, the post office, schools, the library in walking distance. We love it here!

Lela Groene in Montgomery

August 26, 2009, 10:18 PM

I say yes

We moved to Montgomery for the schools, safe sidewalks, streets, being within the I-275 loop, historic downtown & preservation efforts, parks, and nearby amenities for daily living, in that approximate order. We stay for the same reasons. We've also found great friends and neighbors, a calm community lifestyle with a low crime rate, superior city services, and a hard-working city government. We love the community festivals for their family atmosphere.

Improvements we're interested in include a Blue Ash/Mason-type rec center, a downtown district more amenable to everyday shopping & some lower price-point but higher-quality-food dining (like Foster's, Sammy's and Through the Garden in Blue Ash, for example). Like a previous commenter, we'd also like to see the housing stock diversified, encompassing multiple price points rather than heading toward only high-end housing. There are a lot of good, community-building reasons for maintaining a continuum of housing prices rather than facilitating huge gaps between prices of existing and new housing.

Name not shown in Cincinnati

August 25, 2009, 12:55 PM

Living in Montgomery

Why did you move to Montgomery? Why do you stay in Montgomery? Would you recommend Montgomery to your friends? Why or Why not?

All Participants who selected 'Yes'

I say yes

We moved to Montgomery six years ago because of the excellent school district.

As for Montgomery vs. Blue Ash or Symmes, we needed proximity to the Ronald Reagan Highway (my spouse worked in Indiana at the time.)

We love the close-knit, diverse neighborhood in which we have found ourselves. We have neighbors who harken from all around the country and the world, and range in age from newly-married couples to retirees.

We like the fact that most of Montgomery's housing stock and neighborhoods don't have the "cookie cutter" look of the newer suburbs, like Mason and West Chester.

We can walk to Kroger's, the historic district and several parks. The local pool and its community swim team have been a big plus for our kids.

We also like the easy access to downtown Cincinnati and other parts of the region.

We have recommended Montgomery to several friends and will continue to do so.

Name not shown in Montgomery

August 24, 2009, 3:15 PM

I say yes

The main reason we purchased a home in the City of Montgomery was because of the city's image, characteristics, schools, safety records, property value, accessibility and location.

Gerald (Gerry) Houchell in Cincinnati

August 24, 2009, 9:14 AM

I say yes

Several reasons: Home values, excellent schools, well run by our Mayor, and City Council. We have Historical roots reaching back to the Patriots and Founders of our nation. Our proximity to the rest of Cincinnati and the Tri-State allows easy access to events such as Bastille Day Celebration, combined Montgomery and Blue Ash events, and our downtown restaurants and shops are among the cities best, and the list goes on. Montgomery, in sum, is a safe, healthy, friendly, and invigorating place in which to live, raise a family, and perhaps run a business.

Russell Speiller in Montgomery

August 24, 2009, 7:56 AM

I say yes

My wife and I moved to Montgomery a year and a half ago. Besides the good schools, parks, and central location to downtown Cincy and the northern suburbs, we were highly drawn to the walkability of the city, particularly as we chose to live in a neighborhood close to the historic district. We

Living in Montgomery

Why did you move to Montgomery? Why do you stay in Montgomery? Would you recommend Montgomery to your friends? Why or Why not?

All Participants who selected 'Yes'

frequently walk through the district and while we are impressed that the city continues to spend on maintaining the beauty of the area, we truly wish the district was more of a destination location. Quite frankly, we'll grab a bite to eat and maybe peek into one of the boutique stores, but we don't have a frequent need for furs, furniture, textiles, or wedding dresses. Suggestions made by folks in past forums such as adding a small 'Esquire-esque' movie theatre, rec center, farmer's market, music/arts venue, or niche grocery store would be most welcome and would keep us in Montgomery for the long haul. How about getting that private baseball club to open up the doors to their extensive hall of fame museum collection to the public a few times a year? That would certainly draw people to the district.

We would recommend living in Montgomery to friends, particularly in the hopes that the city continues to support its schools, parks, community feel, and truly does invest in making the downtown historic district more of a destination location.

Name not shown in Cincinnati

August 23, 2009, 10:01 PM

I say yes

I would recommend Montgomery as a fine place to live, particularly for families with school-aged children. The best things about the city are its established village character and tree lined streets, its neighborhood identities, and its strong sense of place. This is a striking contrast to the many bland, generic subdivisions in surrounding communities. It has a residential feel yet its location within the 275 belt with easy access to I-71 and Ronald Reagan Highway are positives for connecting to Cincinnati and the emerging business districts in Butler and Warren Counties. The many parks and green spaces and the connecting sidewalks are outstanding. The schools are good and property values are high. The city sponsors many festivals and other initiatives (like MCLA, and the volunteer commissions) that give it a strong sense community. I would recommend to newcomers to get involved in these efforts to get to know your community and your fellow citizens.

I agree with other postings that a rec center or partnership with Blue Ash would be nice. Our pool is a relatively recent asset. Downtown is pretty but lacks a strong draw. I think the best thing that could happen for our downtown would be if it were a stop on a light rail system. This would draw more visitors and foot traffic to the business establishments. Perhaps the merchants could sponsor a twice-yearly event along the lines of a progressive dinner with entertainment to promote their businesses to locals and to surrounding neighborhoods.

Another downside to Montgomery is the homogeneity of the residential development and redevelopment taking place - the lack of diversity in housing styles and price-points is creating a neighborhood catering only to the very affluent; this will drive out young couples and families, empty nesters, and retirees needed to keep the community events and volunteer commissions going in the long term. I believe that once the boomers retire, the demographics of the baby bust generation will not support a disproportionate level of this type of housing stock. Should redevelopment continue in this manner, rather than with diverse housing styles, sizes and price-points, it will not bode well for the long term vibrancy of the city.

Living in Montgomery

Why did you move to Montgomery? Why do you stay in Montgomery? Would you recommend Montgomery to your friends? Why or Why not?

All Participants who selected 'Yes'

I say yes

We moved here for the school district. We had been renting in Mason, and were attracted to Montgomery's trees, sidewalks and pretty downtown. Relative to most other areas in the northern suburbs, Montgomery feels more established and less depressingly sprawly. The city also does a good job of maintaining its parks and sidewalks and some of the green spaces (Montgomery business district north of downtown being an exception). By the way, one primary reason we chose Sycamore for our kids is that it is more diverse than other good suburban districts.

Having said all this, Montgomery really needs a rec center like Blue Ash's--or some kind of partnership with them, as another poster recommended. I do think some families look elsewhere for that reason. There also isn't much to draw us to actually use downtown in terms of useful stores, culture or entertainment or a lively pedestrian scene. An entertainment district and/or performing arts center would be a big improvement as there isn't much in the way of culture in the surrounding communities and could be a draw. It also seems odd to me that so much attention and resources are spent on things like replacing sidewalk pavers downtown that looked fine before and ripping out the shade trees, when other parts of the city feel neglected (such as the business district to its north, which could use a facelift before all the best businesses leave). So though I'm a bit worried about the future direction of the city, I'm hopeful since it seems relatively well run and open minded. But overall it's currently one of the best places to raise a family in the area.

Name not shown in Montgomery

August 23, 2009, 12:56 PM

I say yes

We moved to Montgomery because the schools were recommended to us. When looking at homes in the area, we found the locale to be pleasant and mainly residential. Since that time, the city has done much to improve the historic district and shape Montgomery's vision for the future. Traffic continues to be a major problem for Montgomery. I agree with another comment that centers for recreation, entertainment and culture are lacking here. It would be great to continue the existing partnership with Blue Ash (with the BAM Symphony) and share in that city's recreation opportunities, particularly the planned Arts Center. Indian Hill also has an arts center that could provide partnering opportunities. Now that our child has moved on to college in another city, there is nothing to keep us in the Sycamore School district; however, for now we've come to identify ourselves as "Montgomerians". I would recommend this city for young families with children. The parks are plentiful and lovely, and many neighborhoods now have sidewalks. Someday, it would be great to see mixed-use development (residential and commercial combined) for "empty nesters" who no longer need the spacious lots and large homes Montgomery enjoys.

Bob Saul in Montgomery

August 23, 2009, 12:41 PM

I say yes

The Sycamore School District was a driving force in our decision to select the City, and now the responsive City government and great neighbors, plus the easy access to downtown Cincinnati when

Living in Montgomery

Why did you move to Montgomery? Why do you stay in Montgomery? Would you recommend Montgomery to your friends? Why or Why not?

All Participants who selected 'Yes'

required to go there will keep us in Montgomery.

Remember, you can and should use Montgomery for your address.

Transportation is more than adequate; there is no need for any kind of rail, light or otherwise in Montgomery.

Name not shown in Cincinnati

August 23, 2009, 12:07 PM

I say yes

Montgomery is a great community, with a central location to all of Cincinnati. We moved here because it was central to both of our work places and also to Xavier and UC where we were working on our masters. It is close to downtown, where we enjoy sporting and other events.

We returned here after a transfer because we consider it home. We love the bike paths, the parks, the schools, the people, the way the area is maintained, the responsiveness of the police and fire departments.

We are missing a community/recreation center. We are able to join Blue Ash rec center because family members work in Blue Ash. It is such a nice facility - Montgomery needs to get something like that or work a partnership with Blue Ash.

Also, after talking to many business owners and the school district, we need to be more business friendly. It is ridiculous that Sycamore is not allowed to have the lights on at the stadium more than they are. That stadium could be rented much more frequently than it is if it weren't for the restrictions. Some of the restrictions on business owners and signs make it difficult to for them to stay here and prosper.

Living in Montgomery

Why did you move to Montgomery? Why do you stay in Montgomery? Would you recommend Montgomery to your friends? Why or Why not?

All Participants who selected 'No'

(No statements)

Living in Montgomery

Why did you move to Montgomery? Why do you stay in Montgomery? Would you recommend Montgomery to your friends? Why or Why not?

All Participants who selected 'Neutral'

(No statements)

Living in Montgomery

Why did you move to Montgomery? Why do you stay in Montgomery? Would you recommend Montgomery to your friends? Why or Why not?

All Participants who selected 'Maybe'

Mike Miles in Montgomery

October 10, 2009, 7:33 AM

I say maybe

Having lived in Blue Ash for 11 years and moving into Montgomery about 5 years ago, we loved the public schools, and the overall area. I love my neighborhood except for the Ohio national building/garage. If only they could become good neighbor's and not start property improvements at 6:30 AM on Saturdays. Who would let Dalmation Fire Inc start a Job at 6:30 AM on Saturday morning in a parking garage surrounded by a residential neighborhood?

The company's property improvement decisions continue to be a drag on an otherwise nice place to live!

and I echo the Blue ASH type rec center.

Joerg Zuend` in Cincinnati

August 23, 2009, 12:36 PM

I say maybe

Montgomery does a reasonable job in a very difficult area of the country. I would think Montgomery is a nice community that appears well run. On the positive side it is reasonable diverse, surprisingly open to progressive thinking. It also has some good educational institutions nearby. On the negative side it lacks a reasonable infrastructure of public transportation. The complete lack of a wide area rail system and a city wide light rail system makes the area so much inferior to other cities in the East and West and in part mid-west. The failure of greater Cincinnati airport development has lead to a significant decline in air traffic mobility with no end in sight. Thus I am concerned about its long term economic viability.
