

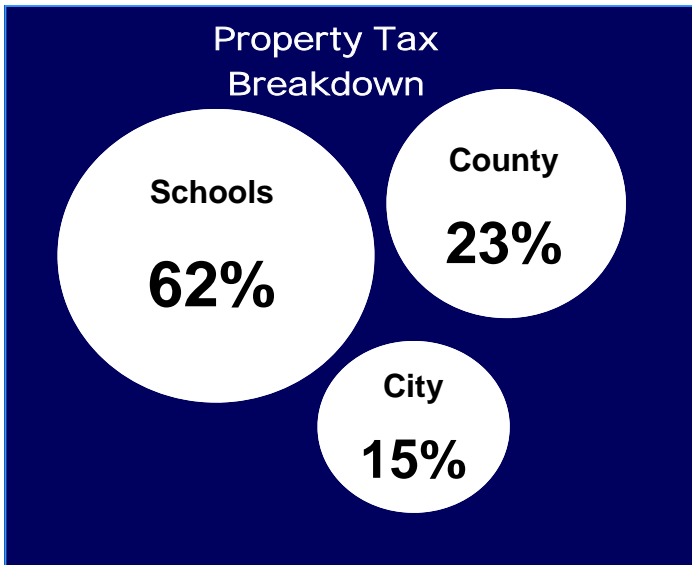
***City of Montgomery
2005 Annual Report***

About Montgomery

Contained in a land area of 5.3 square miles, the City of Montgomery is located in northeastern Hamilton County, 12 miles from Cincinnati. The community was settled in 1795-96 by residents from two New York towns, Montgomery and Hopewell.

Since its founding, the community attracted additional residents, leading to its incorporation in 1910. Much of the community's growth has occurred in the last 30 years, as development continued its northward advance along the interstate systems of southwest Ohio. Today, Montgomery has approximately 3,800 housing units and is home to 10,163 residents.

Montgomery derives much of its operating revenue from a one percent (1%) earnings tax to help fund a full range of City services, undertaken by 60 full-time and 40 part-time employees. Services provided by the City of Montgomery include: police and fire protection, plan review and building inspections, recreational

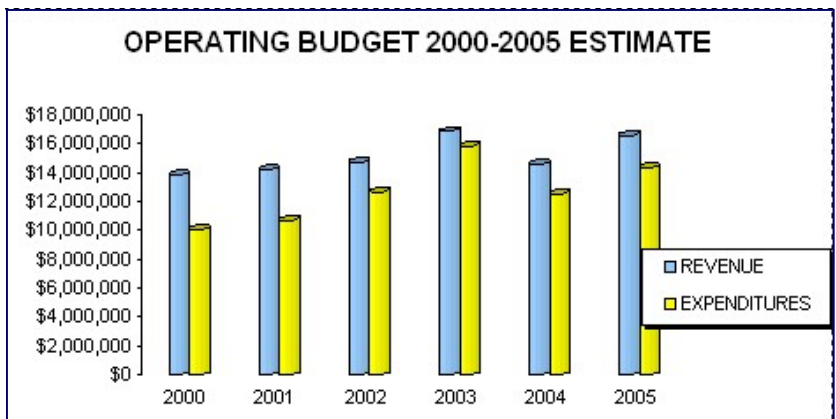


- Top 10 Employers**
- Bethesda North Hospital
 - Sycamore School District
 - Ohio National Financial Services
 - Montgomery Inn
 - CEI Physicians PSC, Inc.
 - Kroger Limited Partnership
 - Montgomery Care Center
 - Bethesda Health Care, Inc.
 - Camargo Cadillac Company
 - Columbia Oldsmobile, Inc.

programming, maintenance of seven parks, street maintenance and snow/ice control of 92 lane-miles of roadway, as well as a host of other City programs.

Montgomery is located in the Sycamore School District, which has drawn national recognition for academic excellence. The district operates four elementary schools, an intermediate school, a junior high school and one high school.

Montgomery is home to a variety of commercial enterprises including: Bethesda North Hospital, Ohio National Financial Services, Century Motors, Montgomery Chevrolet, and Camargo Cadillac. In addition, the historic downtown is a thriving retail and dining area, including the famous Montgomery Inn Restaurant.



The City of Montgomery is also home to institutions serving 13 religious denominations.

2005 Highlights

2005 was yet another very busy year marked by several significant successes and achievements:

A comprehensive survey of all residences in the City was conducted in 2005, the results of which indicate that an overall 97 percent of residents are either “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the quality of life in the community. In all categories, a majority of residents gave “very satisfied” or “satisfied” ratings to every service offered by the City, with Fire and EMS receiving the highest satisfaction rating of 93.6 percent approval. Eight of ten residents “agree” that the municipal services provided to their households are a good value for the property tax dollars they pay. These results were extremely gratifying to City staff and City Council, however the City will continue to seek ways to improve on service delivery to the residents of Montgomery.

2005 marked the completion of an important public improvement project on Parrott Alley (featured on the cover of this report) in historic downtown Montgomery. These improvements were designed to highlight the walkway between the public parking area and Montgomery Road to increase identification of the parking area, and also to make the walk a bit more pleasant for those patronizing our businesses. The improvements are a great enhancement not only to the appearance of the area, but also its functionality, and are the culmination of almost two years of planning and development.

City planning and approval work on the development of the City’s Triangle property located at the corner of Montgomery and Cooper Roads continued in 2005, and construction on this important gateway development will begin early in 2006. The plan for the Triangle features a mixed use office and retail development that include restaurant sites and a bank facility. An underground parking garage will service the site and the City will be involved with a variety of public improvements around the site that are funded through the establishment of a tax increment financing district on the property. The City’s goal of creating an attractive and viable business development at this once underutilized, key site in the Heritage District will become a reality in 2006.

Preliminary work on a number of developments kept Planning Commission and City Council busy in 2005. In addition to the Triangle property, proposed developments in the City include a substantial development on the Gate of Heaven property which will include both commercial and residential uses, development of the auto dealership properties in the southern portion of the City and a residential development in the area of Remington and Main Streets. The City is committed to seeing that these developments are completed in compliance with the City’s code of ordinances and zoning code and once completed that they will contribute to the overall high quality image of the City.

The City was the recipient of a number of awards in 2005 including the Tree City USA Award, which marks the 10th consecutive year that the City has received this distinction. The City also received its tenth consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its 2003 comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) and was also the recipient of the Government Finance Officers Association’s National Innovation Award for the City’s Health Benefits Committee.

The City of Montgomery continued to spread the word about “The Montgomery Way” among its local government peers across the nation through presentations of the City’s High Performance

Organization (formerly TARGET) Program at two conferences in 2005. The City’s presentation team developed a program to teach its high performance theory and implementation plan to other cities that may have an interest in establishing such a program. Montgomery was given the opportunity to share this information at the Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia in August and also at the International City/County Management Association Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota in September, 2005. Montgomery’s presentation was very well received at each of these conferences and it is anticipated that the team will continue to be a part of the ICMA University series and will speak again at the annual conference in San Antonio, Texas in September, 2006.

In early 2005, the TARGET program continued its work toward achieving a high performance workplace through work on individual TARGET Teams, specialized Task Teams and through established employee teams such as the EAST Committee, the Wellness Committee and Health Care Benefits Committee, to name a few. The TARGET program underwent some modifications starting late in 2005, with the elimination of the seven TARGET teams and the formation of four larger groups which meet on a quarterly basis rather than monthly to discuss issues and activities ongoing in the City as well as to discuss topics to assist in the City’s culture of high performance. The City’s Task Teams will continue to work toward their individual goals and new task teams will form as a need for them is identified.

In late April and early May, 2005, Montgomery’s Sister Cities Commission hosted 18 representatives from Montgomery’s Sister City, Neuilly-Plaisance, France. The delegation was comprised of teachers, school administrators and City officials. This visit represents the second phase of the back to back Teachers Exchange that was initiated several years ago. Twelve community residents graciously opened their doors to provide lodging for the guests while commission members developed an extensive, daily itinerary that included a variety of school visits, cultural events and social opportunities in their efforts to share a sampling of the American lifestyle. The project certainly exemplified the commission’s motto - “Bringing the World Together...One Friendship at a Time.”

The City hosted several special events, including ongoing events such as Sensory Sundays, Fourth of July and Bastille Day celebrations, Harvest Moon and Chilifest and Holiday in the Village, just to name a few. In addition to these time-tested favorites, the City developed a new fun event, Gangsters and Gals, which took place in November and was a sold out event that was greatly enjoyed by all in attendance. Also new in 2005 was the first annual Montgomery Walking Home Tour. Sponsored by the Arts Commission as a fundraising project, seven landmark properties were showcased in addition to eight new homes with distinguished historic details.

Information technology was a focus during 2005, with the redevelopment of the City website to address issues such as accessibility for users with disabilities, and general ease of navigation for all users. A new vendor for the City’s online services was also hired in an effort to make these functions easier to use and as a result the City will realize a substantial cost savings with the new vendor.

There was a significant number of public improvement projects completed in the City in 2005, including resurfacing of several City streets, installation of two new subdivision sidewalks, and repair of existing sidewalks.

Council/Administration

Council & Administration 2005 ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor

Gary Blomberg

Vice Mayor

Gerri Harbison

Members Of Council

Ed Daniel

William Niehaus

Lynda Roesch

Todd Steinbrink

Ken Suer

ADMINISTRATION

City Manager

Cheryl A. Hilvert

Director of Community Development

Frank Davis

Public Work Director

Robert Nikula

Director of Finance

Wayne Davis

Chief of Police

Don Simpson

Fire Chief

Paul Wright

Clerk of Council

Susan Hamm

Law Director

Terrence M. Donnellon

Mayor's Court Magistrate

Terrence Gaines

The City of Montgomery operates under a Council-Manager form of government with seven elected Council Members working with a City Manager who is appointed by City Council. All City Council members

are elected at large by a popular vote of City residents for staggered terms of four years. Once seated, Council Members select the Mayor who serves for a two-year appointment.

Montgomery City Council is responsible for establishing policies and enacting legislation necessary for municipal operations.

City Council operates with six standing committees: Financial Planning; Government Affairs; Law and Safety; Parks and Recreation; Planning, Zoning, and Landmarks; and Public Works.

City Council members are very busy in their roles as elected officials, and their work is largely centered around determination of policy. During 2005, City Council conducted 38 public meetings, including regular meetings, special sessions and 27 council committee meetings.

In an effort to improve communications between City Council and the Boards, Commissions and civic organizations several initiatives were undertaken including:

- Each Board/Commission Chair was invited to attend a discussion meeting to update City Council members on the activities and work of their respective Board/Commission for the previous year.
- City Council, and the Administration conducted an annual new member Board and Commission orientation session. This training session/education session gave new Board and Commission members the tools they needed to perform their valuable work and at the same time, enhance communications between the Boards and Commissions, City Council and staff.
- A Community Leadership Forum was held and represented an opportunity for volunteers, representatives of neighborhood associations and civic groups, elected officials and administration to discuss major issues, activities and suggested topics of interest by forum participants.

As part of City Council's responsibilities for establishing policies and enacting legislation, City Council oversaw operations and administration of a cash budget of \$15,717,652 and adopted 53 ordinances and resolutions.

Highlights of Council action during 2005 included:

Adopted changes to the Income Tax Code which were necessitated by changes to the State municipal tax code as contained in Ohio House Bill 95.

Established an Interim Development Control District which enables the Planning Commission and City Council to designate areas or districts within the community where interim controls should be put in place while changes are being considered to the Land Usage Code, which could affect the uses permitted or development standards within the district.

Created a Gateway Interim Development Control Overlay District to protect the Heritage District and the Old Montgomery District by restricting development in the proposed Gateway area on an interim basis while the City completes its planning study for the area.

Amended the Land Usage Code to permit Planned Unit Developments within the City and established guidelines and procedures for the approval of such districts.

Levied assessments for the improvement in the area known as Swaim Field Subdivision by installing decorative electric streetlights.

Authorized the City manager to enter into a contract with Montgomery Gateway Partners, LLC, for the redevelopment of property known as the Montgomery Road Triangle site.

Authorized the sale of the Montgomery Road Triangle Property pursuant to an Urban Renewal And Redevelopment Plan.

Entered into a parking agreement between the City of Montgomery and Montgomery Gateway Partners, LLC to allow public parking within the underground parking garage proposed to be developed on the site known as the Triangle.

Approved a budget and a tax budget for the year 2006.

Authorized the City Manager to enter into contracts for the provision of professional services including legal services with the City law director, engineering ser-

vices, planning and development services, strategic planning services and a service agreement for the City's finance, tax and accounting software.

Authorized the City Manager to enter into various contracts for the purchase of police cruisers, an ambulance, a truck for the service department, road and sidewalk repair programs, and salt for roadway deicing purposes.

Authorized the City Manager to enter into contracts for the provision of health, dental and life insurance coverages for City employees and a contract to administer employee flexible spending accounts.



Mayor Harbison and Vice-Mayor Suer took oaths of office in December, 2005

Authorized an agreement between the City of Montgomery and the Board Of Hamilton County Commissioners for the improvement of Weller Road from Weil Road to 700' west.

Entered into an agreement of cooperation with Hamilton County, Ohio pursuant to provisions of the Housing And Community Development Act Of 1974, which allows the City to participate in the Hamilton County Community Development Program under which the City has received two grants over the past three years for public improvements.

Passed a resolution supporting the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program and authorized the filing and execution of a grant request to the Ohio Attorney General's Office for the continuing efforts of the D.A.R.E. program.

Entered into an agreement with the Sycamore Community School District Board of Education to provide a School Resource Officer to Sycamore High School for school years 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009.

Adopted recommendation of the Montgomery Tax Incentive Review Council with respect to the compliance of all Tax Increment Financing Districts within the City of Montgomery.

Adopted the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the system for response to security and natural disasters within the community as required pursuant to Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-5.

TARGET

During much of 2005, employees of the City of Montgomery continued to work within the TARGET program that was established in 2001, continuing their education on high performance organizational principles and working in TARGET (homeroom) and Task (special project) Teams on a variety of special projects. In August, the TARGET program moved into a new phase with employees being divided into four discussion groups that meet on a quarterly basis in training/discussion sessions to ensure that the high performance ideals, City mission and values that the TARGET program served to instill are fresh in everyone's minds. These ideals are guided by the City's mission, vision and values that emphasize the need for cooperative teamwork and leadership at all levels of the organization. Employees are instilled with the motivation to strive to deliver quality product and service, outstanding customer value and sound financial performance.

Some of the projects that various TARGET Teams worked on in 2005 included: a study of a problem with car carrier trucks unloading cars in the middle of Montgomery Road and subsequent meetings with the local car dealerships regarding how this problem could be addressed. As a result of these meetings, an agreement was reached with the car dealerships for the cars to be unloaded in locations other than the centerlane of Montgomery Road. A coat drive was developed in 2004 and held again in 2005 in conjunction with Channel 5 and resulted in 200 coats being collected at the Safety Center for people in need. A snow brochure was developed to help educate residents on the City's policies and procedures for the removal of snow and the treatment of streets for icy conditions, including how streets are prioritized for treatment. This brochure was developed as a result of the extremely high volume of calls received during the level three emergency snow storm event that occurred in December of 2004 by residents inquiring when their street would be cleaned.

In 2005, the various Task Teams that were formed to work on specific projects continued their work. Some of these accomplishments included the various trainings that the T3 Training Team put together for employees which included dynamic speakers such as Tony Gardner, Bruce Boguski and James White. These dynamic and energizing trainings were very well received by all in attendance. The Customer Service Team developed a City information booth that

was set up at all City events in 2005 and a few dates on Saturdays at the Montgomery Kroger were also established. The Customer Service Team also developed a customer survey that front line employees can encourage customers to complete to identify any problems, or opportunities for improvement they can suggest. The Masters of Disasters Team oversaw the certification of all City employees under the National Incident Management System as required by federal mandate. Other Task Teams are ongoing and will continue to meet, such as the Health Benefits Team, the Employee Advisory and Safety Team (EAST), the Wellness Committee and the Website Team.

A couple of new task teams were formed in 2005. These include the Space Cadets whose mission is to explore better and more efficient ways of storing City documents. Another new team is the Big Thinkers team. Big Thinkers is a small team of employees that brainstorms and seeks "outside of the box" innovations to help address current and future issues facing the City of Montgomery. Other new task teams will continue to be developed as the City's need dictates.



The City of Montgomery was invited to spread the word about the City's HPO program at two conferences in 2005. In August, a presentation was given at the Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia. In September, the City again presented its full-day ICMA University Course entitled "High Performance Organizations: Becoming Stewards of the Whole" at the International City/County Management Association in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These presentations are always very well received and it is anticipated that the City will continue to be invited to share its great HPO story at future conferences/events.

Lastly, the City was the recipient of one of five awards presented by the International Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its Health Care Benefits Team. The award-winning work of this employee team is responsible for the high quality health insurance program that has been in place in the City for the past six years and which has resulted in annual savings in health care cost increases which were about 1/2 of the cost increase experienced by other public sector entities in the Greater Cincinnati Region. This committee represents the essence of the principles of high performance - employee leadership and involvement in efficient and cost effective service delivery at all levels of our organization.

Development & Planning

2005 marked the completion of one of the largest development projects in the City's history, Twin Lakes, and the beginning of another, the Phase II expansion at Bethesda North Hospital. In June, the City celebrated the opening of the main campus building of Twin Lakes. The 334,000 square foot central building provides independent apartment living, assisted care, skilled nursing, and memory support facilities, as well as dining and recreation areas. Combined with the patio homes on Hopewell Road and Perin Road, Twin Lakes offers 206 independent dwelling units and 65 accommodations for people needing assistance. By the end of the year 300 people called Twin Lakes home.

2005 also saw the approval of Phase II of the capital improvement plan for Bethesda North Hospital. Construction started in the summer on the seven-story bed tower that will add 130 new in-patient beds, a new diagnostics and support services wing, and a new parking structure. Construction will continue through 2006.

The City's Landmarks and Planning Commission spent much of 2005 reviewing the proposed redevelopment of the City-owned property at the corner of Montgomery Road and Cooper Road. The City has been working with a private developer to construct approximately 40,000 square feet of office and retail space on top of a 90 space underground parking garage. Final agreements on the sale of the property and the design of the building were completed in December to allow the transfer of ownership and the start of construction in early 2006.

After a lengthy approval process, the City approved the plans for the relocation of Montgomery Chevrolet from downtown to the site of its existing used car operation. Construction began in the summer and should be complete by the spring of 2006. The move by this dealership will allow for the redevelopment of this important downtown property.

Information Technology

The past year has been a year of renovation for the City website. The use of the City website has increased over 300% since the addition of the first e-government service in 2003. The Information Technology Department, along with a group of employees throughout the City, embarked on a project to improve the City website even more and add additional services.

The website is more aesthetically pleasing and will now be compliant with Section 508, an amendment to the Workforce Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Section 508 requires that electronic and information technology is accessible by people with disabilities.

In addition to the current ability to purchase pool passes, commemorative gifts and make lodge reservations, the website will now include the ability to sign up for recreation

In anticipation of the Chevrolet dealership, the City undertook a planning study of the area between the downtown and Cross County Highway to evaluate the best uses and designs for future development. At the completion of the study, a new zoning district was proposed for this area and legislation was drafted. By the end of the year the Planning Commission had completed its review and sent a recommendation on to City Council for its consideration.

The City also initiated a review of the zoning guidelines for the commercial district north of downtown to determine whether additional planning and architectural design guidelines were warranted. A committee comprised of property owners in the area, Planning and Landmarks Commission members, City staff, and a private consultant worked through the spring and early summer to develop reasonable, yet effective, measures to improve the overall design and appearance from Schoolhouse Lane to the Heritage District. Planning Commission completed its review in the fall and sent its recommendation to City Council. The guidelines will be in place in early 2006.

Late in 2005, the City received an application from an area developer to develop 70 acres of vacant land owned by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati adjoining Gate of Heaven Cemetery. This project includes rezoning portions of the property for higher density residential dwellings and a small commercial district. Work on this project will extend well into 2006.

2005 saw the demolition of 24 older houses throughout the City by homebuilders looking to build larger, more modern houses. In total, builders invested \$11,117,000 in new single family housing in 2005, an increase of over \$3.1 million from 2004. The City also approved building permits for remodeling or building additions on 40 homes, at a value of over \$825,000. The Building and Development Department also issued 156 permits for signs, accessory buildings, and swimming pools. This was comparable to 2004. Inspectors for the City dealt with 316 violations of the zoning and property maintenance codes. More than half of these involved the removal of signs placed within the public right of way.

classes and events and will show park shelter availability. The addition of these new services did not increase the cost to the City. Due to negotiations with vendors, the cost to provide e-government services will actually decrease by 75% starting in 2006.

2005 also brought a focus on customer service with the development of a new Customer Service Department at City Hall. This new department will be created by combining the City's Information Technology Department with the receptionist functions at the front-desk and the customer service interactions of the Building Department. Bringing these functions together will provide a one-stop-shop for all City Hall customer interactions and will produce efficiencies by streamlining processes and combining the strengths of the three areas. These changes are expected to be completed by September, 2006.

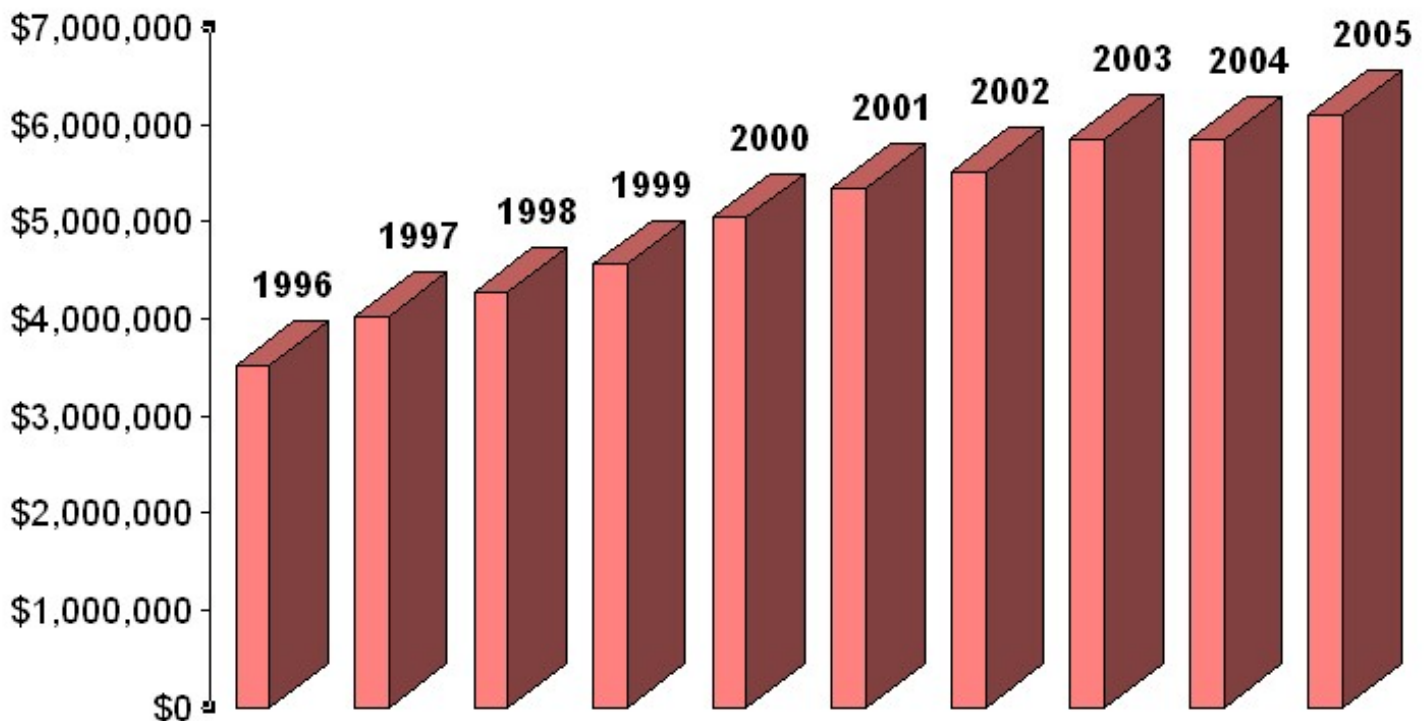
Finance Department

The Finance Department is responsible for various financial functions such as preparing and maintaining the Operating and Capital Budgets, cash management, purchasing, payroll and earnings tax collections. The Finance Department consists of two offices: Earnings Tax and Finance. The Earnings Tax Office includes a full-time Tax Commissioner and a full-time Clerk. The Finance Office has a Part-time Finance/Accounting Assistant, one full-time Senior Account Clerk and a part-time payroll Clerk, who also assists in the Tax Office. The department is supervised by the Finance Director, who reports directly to the City Manager.

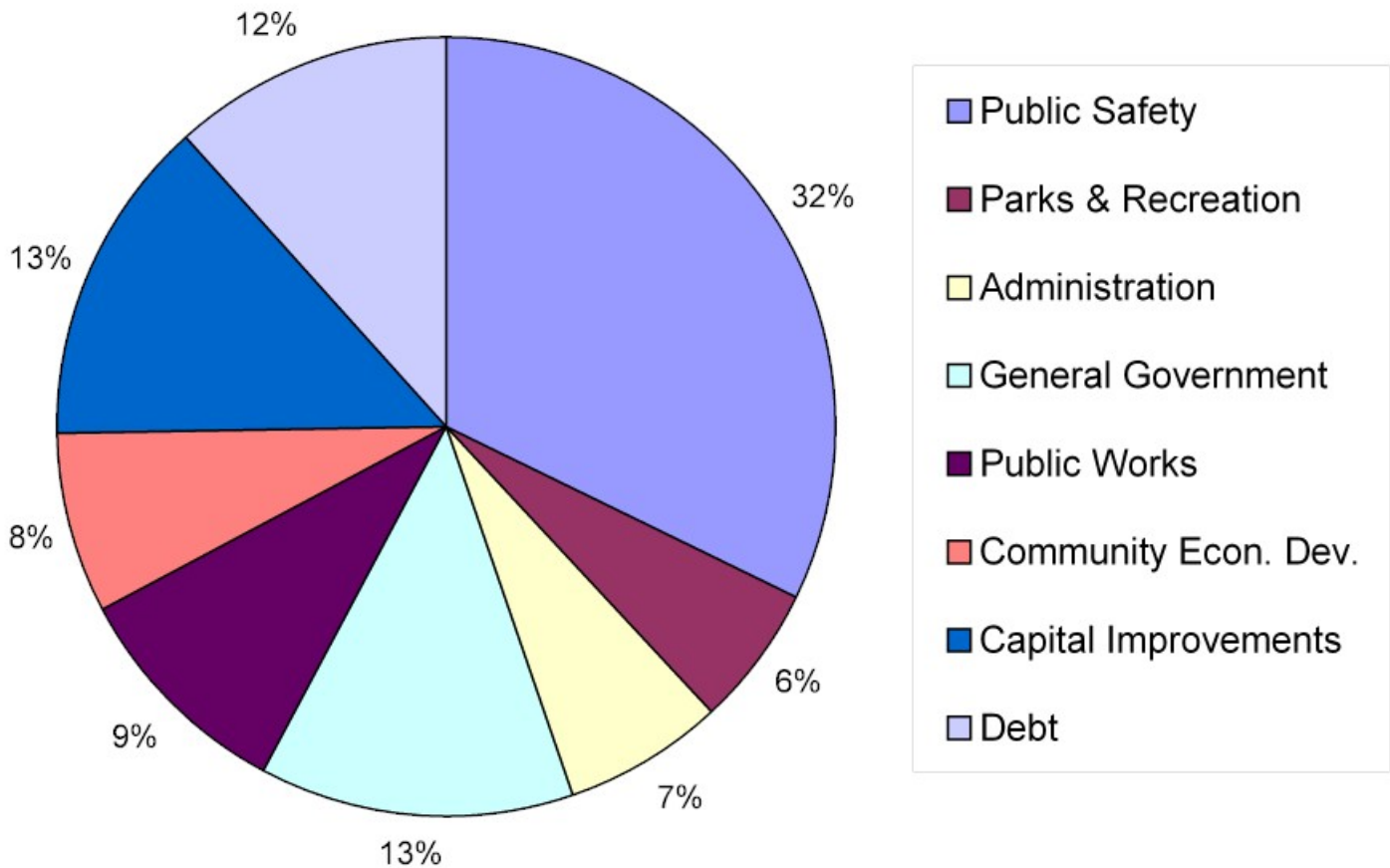
The Earnings Tax Office offers guidance and assistance in the preparation of City of Montgomery tax returns. Taxable income includes, but is not limited to, qualified wages, generally shown in the Medicare box of the W-2 forms, business income, rental income, and any gambling winnings that are reported to the IRS. To provide superior service to all, the Earnings Tax Office offers extended hours on weekends and selected weekday evenings during the tax season. In 2005, earnings tax collections totaled \$6,100,942 representing a 4.4% increase over 2004. These taxes are disbursed into three funds, according to the following allocation: the General Fund receives 63.5%; the General Bond Retirement Fund receives 15%; and the Capital Improvement Fund receives 21.5%.

The Finance Staff prepares monthly and annual reports including the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), the Tax Budget and the annual Operating and Capital Budgets and Four-Year Forecasts. In 2005, for the tenth consecutive year, the City was awarded the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

**Earnings Tax Revenue
1996-2005
(In \$ Millions)**



City of Montgomery 2005 Total Expenditures - \$14,301,096



for the submission of the City's 2004 CAFR. The 2004 award reflects the City's first year in reporting Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 34, which is a mandated requirement for all local governments. GASB-34 requires all municipalities to incorporate the value of all City infrastructure (streets, sidewalks and stormwater sewers) into year-end financial reporting. The City continues to be recognized with an Aa1 bond rating; one of only eight communities in the State of Ohio to be rated in this category.

The Finance Department continues to improve services in various ways, including its presence on the City's website. In 2006 a few of the enhancements included frequently asked tax questions, street listings, links to State and Federal websites and easily downloadable tax forms.

In 2005, the Finance Department, like all City departments participated in the City's performance measurement process. This effort involved the tracking and collecting of performance measurement data, which will ultimately be used by the department and the City to benchmark its performance against finance departments in other municipalities.

Finally, in 2005 the City entered into an agreement to continue with 5th/3rd Bank to provide banking services to the City, and also designated 5th/3rd as the City's active depository institution.

Volunteers/Commissions

Members of the nine boards and commissions continue to be the backbone of Montgomery's Volunteer Program. Sharing their valuable time and diversified talents to serve in a leadership capacity, these volunteer groups include the Arts Commission, Beautification and Tree Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Civil Service Commission, Landmarks Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission and the Sister Cities Commission. In addition, members of the Environmental Advisory Group have operated as an advisory group for the past three years. In total, sixty-three community members have made the commitment to serve in one of these leadership roles for a three or four year term.

Many of these dedicated volunteers serving in a leadership capacity were also responsible for numerous City events and programs this past year. Their organization skills and "hands on" abilities resulted in the following successful happenings: Fine Arts Sampler/Ansel Adams Exhibit, International Reception, spring and fall Plant Swaps, 18th annual Photo Competition, Children's Marigold Project, Bastille Day Celebration, Beautification Awards, Walking Home Tour and Computer Recycling Program.

More than 500 episodic volunteers enhanced our community in 2005 with a myriad of projects. Homemakers, retirees and senior citizens provided valuable staff support by labeling mail, staffing the front desk, photographing events and programs, removing litter from our City's gateways, organizing the July 4th Parade assembly and enhancing the Pioneer Park Butterfly Gardens. In addition, an enthusiastic team of volunteers also contributed a substantial amount of their time for special projects that include the annual basket and container planting endeavor and the Heritage District holiday decorating project. Volunteers also played a key role in the organization and success of the Sensory Sundays program and the July 4th Festival.

The young folk in our community also made their volunteer contributions in 2005. Over 200 children from local elementary schools participated in Beautification Week Park Planting while junior high students managed craft and game booths at many of Montgomery's festivals and Recreation Department events throughout the year. Local teens were also welcome, volunteer participants serving in the capacity of teacher assistants for the Police Department's Safety Village Program and the Recreation Department's Spring Break Bash.

The Arts Commission added another event to the 2005 community calendar-the *Montgomery Walking Home Tour*. Held in May as a fundraising

project, seven landmark properties were showcased in addition to eight new homes with distinguished, historic details. Fifteen local businesses participated by donating specialty items for the silent auction, by opening their business doors on a Sunday or by providing refreshment items. The success of the project is the result of a great collaborative effort of home owners, retailers and additional volunteers who greeted the public at their assigned venue in addition to the significant amount of project planning time expended by members of the Arts Commission.

The annual Bastille Day Celebration, sponsored by the Sister Cities Commission, continues to be the epitome of Montgomery's volunteer spirit. Members from six City commissions participated in this unique, annual event that celebrates our City's friendship with our Sister City, Neuilly-Plaisance, France. The planning committee included five volunteers who played leadership roles as Event Chair, Restaurant Recruiter, Wine Booth Coordinator, Publicity Chair and Event Special Features. The committee members shared an inordinate amount of time and energy planning and organizing this infamous, street party and added new event features like the Diaper Derby and the Corn Hole Tournament.

In addition to this core team of volunteers, ap-



The Childrens' Bike Parade is always a popular component of the July 4th Parade

proximately 50 adult volunteers worked in the ticket, beer and wine booths. And, the "Kids Korner" of the event would not be possible without the enthusiastic assistance provide by more than forty teen volunteers who managed the children's game booths throughout the day. Representatives from seven civic, church or business organizations also participated in the event. The efforts of all these volunteers contributed to a successful, community event.

The Sister Cities Commission also hosted the second phase of the Teachers Exchange in April with 18 educators visiting our community from Neuilly-Plaisance. Twelve host families graciously

opened their homes to our French guests. Commission members worked for months organizing a myriad of activities. In addition to coordinating visits to all levels of our local school systems and a college campus, the activities' itinerary included the Cincinnati Art Museum, Krohn Conservatory, a Reds game, Newport Aquarium, Echo Soup Kitchen, Campbell County Courthouse and, of course, shopping excursions. The commission's project goal was to expose the French educators to the American "way of life" and more specifically to the American education system. It was perceived that the goal was accomplished and, once again, the commission's motto of *"Bringing the World Together...One Friendship at a Time,"* was realized.

The City is extremely grateful to these active, community participants who have made civic involvement a priority. These volunteers continue to enhance the quality of life for our residents with their immeasurable contributions.

Public Safety/Police

The police department is comprised of 21 full-time officers, two clerks, one Mayor's Court clerk and 4 auxiliary police officers. The 21 fulltime officers, are comprised of one Chief, one Lieutenant, four Sergeants, two Detectives, one Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) officer, one School Resource Officer (SRO), one Traffic Safety Officer, and ten patrol officers.

Police Chief Kirk Nordbloom retired in June of 2005 and was replaced by Don Simpson, a former assistant Chief of Police with the City of Forest Park. Chief Simpson has over 21 years of law enforcement experience including time spent as a detective, undercover narcotics officer and a bureau commander.

Officers on the department responded to 246 "Part 1" crimes, 13,186 calls for service, and made 341 arrests (236 adult and 105 juvenile). Part 1 crimes are defined by the U.S. Justice Department to include the following: Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Assault, Burglary, Theft and Auto Theft. This data, however, does not provide an accurate picture of the department's activities. These are statistics and they don't measure time, nor its accompanying effort, the numbers of employees involved, court, communication, transportation, supplies, equipment used.

A comparison of crime statistics for the last five years shows the City's 2005 total at a five year low. What a remarkable comparison. Obviously the issue is "why?" Researchers would suggest a host of reasons including the aging population, affluence, social economic conditions, increased incarceration rates and even variances in the weather. We have a differing view. While these factors certainly can impact crime rates, there are reasons why we have lower crime rates and improved quality of life conditions. While anecdotal, we believe it's a



Officer Paul Payne has been the School Resource Officer for the City since the program started in 2001

reflection of a lot of hard work, not just by members of the police department but from our co-workers in other City departments, political representatives and, more importantly, from citizens.

The Quality of Life and its incumbent reductions in reported crime is related to the City's mission statement, our core values and vision statement and our partnership with the community. Montgomery is a thriving, safe community because City staff shares responsibility for the community. There is value in the collaborative effort to keep our City clean and safe. The reduction in crime and the fear of crime reflect a dedication to maintaining a partnership, a joint effort united in a common cause, to make Montgomery a great place to live, work and play. Your police department is proud to be a contributing partner in such a worthy cause.

The police department continued its successful safety camp for 5 and 6 year-old children. The summer camp has become a favorite of residents and fills to capacity each year. Other educational efforts

Public Safety/Police continued

included our first Citizen's Police Academy. The 10 week program showcased our department and challenged our employees to create curriculum for the academy participants. Residents were overwhelmingly positive about the experience and urged us to continue the academy in future years.

Our successful partnership with the Sycamore School District continued with the assignment of officers in the D.A.R.E. and SRO programs. Officer Pat Giblin and Officer Paul Payne worked diligently to maintain the positive working relationship between the school district and the police department. The Sycamore Junior High School staff expressed interest in extending the SRO position to include time at the junior high. The idea of sharing an SRO between the schools will most likely be discussed by the school board as the popularity of the program continues.

The police department continued its membership in DART (Drug Abuse Reduction Task Force). DART is comprised of approximately 15 local law enforcement agencies that primarily address drug trafficking at the local level. The task force also has a pharmaceutical diversion unit that investigates physicians, nursing staff, and pharmacy staff suspected of abusing drugs, forging, altering, or writing illegal prescriptions, or trafficking in drugs. The task force worked on several cases during the year that had ties to Montgomery.

Mayor's/Juvenile Court

The Montgomery Mayor's Court, which is held three times each month, hears most of the City's misdemeanor and traffic cases, including first offenses of driving under the influence of alcohol and driving under suspension. In 2005 the Court heard cases involving over 2,300 offenses resulting in \$173,764 in fines, fees and court costs. After assessing the required state fees, the City's portion of the fund was \$138,140.

The Montgomery Juvenile Court, with Referee Terry Donnellon presiding, heard 74 criminal cases. The disposition of these cases often resulted in community service being performed by the juvenile offender. Serious criminal cases, second offenders, and all juvenile traffic cases are sent directly to the Hamilton County Juvenile Court system and are heard by a Juvenile Court Judge.



*The Department has three full-time Police Clerks:
(l to r) Dianne Smith, Cindy Rains and Brenda Fisher*

Training

The ever increasing police mandate requires additional hours of training each year. With the expansion of less-lethal force options, annual training hours have increased significantly. Bean bag shotgun, Taser, Asp baton, OC spray (chemical mace), rifle and handgun training must be coordinated for each officer. The addition of policy and procedure training, specialized training such as radar/laser enforcement, crime scene processing, advanced photography, pursuit driving training etc. would indicate that training requirements are an important component of police work. In total, outside training hours for 2005 were over 1,600 hours. Also, our commitment to the High Performance Organization philosophy necessitates in house training and coaching to constantly improve our focus on customer service. The cumulative total of all training and mentoring results in a well trained and dedicated police department committed to the mission of the City.

The Police Department looks forward to the challenges of 2006 and remains committed to providing excellent service to the citizens of Montgomery. Our continued partnership with the community will assure that Montgomery remains a premier City in the region.

Public Safety/Fire

For 2005, the Fire Department handled 447 fire incidents and 881 emergency medical service incidents for a total of 1,328 incidents. Emergency medical service incidents continue to be one of the priorities of the department and is responsible for 66% of the total incident volume. 2005 saw a decrease of fire incidents from the prior year with a total value of loss from fire in the City of \$24,320. The department attributes the decrease in fire incidents to our fire prevention efforts and the inspections conducted by staff. In a modern fire service, preventing the outbreak and serious spread of fire is considered as essential to public safety as proficiency in fighting fires. Any good inspection program must consider the benefits of educating the public about hazards which may affect them and how these hazards might endanger lives and property. Fire inspections within the jurisdiction are carried out on a regular, systematic basis by three certified fire safety inspectors. The program requires all occupancies, except residential properties, to be inspected at least once per year. Total fire inspections for the year were 1070. The results of this effort can be seen in the reduction of incidents, which allows the department to be available for other emergencies and activities.

New equipment that was purchased as part of the Capital Improvement Program included the purchase of replacement fire hose as well as the replacement of some of the firefighter's protective coats and pants. A major Capital Improvement for the department came with the purchase of a new ambulance to replace the 1993 Horton ambulance. Construction of this new

ambulance was completed late in 2005. A new Rescue Pumper that was ordered in 2004 arrived in December, 2005. During the beginning of 2006, training and equipping the new truck will occur to place the vehicle in service. This new Rescue Pumper expands the department's capability to perform trench rescue as well as confined space rescue.

The department utilized a grant from FEMA to purchase new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). This \$80,000 grant replaced fourteen SCBAs that were ten years old and did not comply with new requirements for SCBA equipment. An additional six SCBAs were purchased with the grant monies to better equip the department. Individual face pieces were provided to each member whereas in the past the face pieces were shared amongst the firefighters on the scene of an emergency.

Public Education programs, once again, were very successful for the department. Everything from tours of the Safety Center to CPR classes to Fire Prevention Week activities kept all busy with these very worthwhile programs. A total of 64 individual programs were offered to countless number of people, as the department tries to prevent injuries and accidents from occurring in the community. The CPR program called "CPR for Family & Friends" continues to be successful. This program is offered quarterly and is intended to provide participants with enough information and practical skills to assist a loved one in an emergency situation until help arrives.

An Open House occurred on April 30th and was a success with a good number of residents stopping by to see the different exhibits. Police and fire vehicles were available for viewing as well as units from the Police SWAT team and the University Air Care helicopter. Additionally, child car seat checks were available as well as the sale of bike helmets. Many opportunities for education occurred as people had the ability to talk with police officers and firefighters first hand and learn from their experience.

The Child Car Seat Safety Program has assisted a number of citizens to learn the proper use and placement of their children in a car seat. Technicians received their certifications through Children's Hospital. Since the beginning of this program in 1999 the department has instructed over 1,328 individuals in the proper installation of child car seats. 195 installations



In 2005, the Fire Department took delivery on this new Summit rescue pumper. This pumper give the department the capability to include trench rescue as well as confined space rescue

Public Safety/Fire continued

occurred during 2005. The department continues to offer this program as another service available to Montgomery citizens.

The Address Sign Program was utilized many times in 2005 for orders for the green and white reflective address signs. Under this program, firefighters manufacture and install the signs at the request of the property owner for a nominal fee. This system assists personnel in finding residences quickly in emergency situations.

In October, the eighth annual Chili Festival was held at Swaim Park. This event allows the fire department to show off their equipment, talk to residents and see who makes the best chili in the community. The weather was perfect, attendance was great and donations were collected to purchase additional equipment for the department.

Training continued to be a high priority in the department. All personnel are required to document 60 hours of training per year in addition to what is required to maintain their certifications. A total of 2,975 training hours were logged by the employees this year to maintain their skills.

EMS billing of non-property owners transported to the hospital collected \$71,755 in 2005. This is the ninth year of this revenue-generating program. Any person transported by our ambulance, who is not a property owner in Montgomery, is billed for our service to assist in defraying the cost of the transport.

The South West Ohio Fire Department Benchmarking project continued for the fifth year of gathering information that compares Montgomery's services with twelve similar communities in the Greater Cincinnati area. This data assists in seeing how the department's services measure up to services at a local, regional and national levels. A meeting was scheduled for late January of 2006 to review the information and to see where improvements to the data collection template need to be made to assure equality in assembling the data bank.

The year 2005 has been a full year with many new challenges and changes. The fire department continues to mature into a first rate public safety organization. Based on the department's plan for 2006, the future looks equally exciting as well as challenging.

Public Works

The City of Montgomery continued its active participation in the Hamilton County Stormwater District established to complete federally mandated National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II requirements. Work completed during 2005 focused on public education, public outreach and construction site management controls. City staff prepared 4 articles for the Montgomery Bulletin that included helpful tips for homeowners on how to reduce pollutants discharged into local creeks and streams and protect our waterways from harmful pollutants or pathogens. One of those articles included information about storm drain labels that were purchased for installation on, or near storm sewer drain openings beginning in 2006. Other work in 2005 included updating City regulations for construction site storm water runoff control including additional requirements for redevelopment projects as well as revisions to Montgomery Codified Ordinance Chapter 154: Water management, sediment control and flood damage prevention. Recommendations for a Chapter 154 revision along with an updated ordinance will be presented for review by Montgomery City Council during 2006.

The Service Department completed GASB 34 filing in 2005 complying with General Accounting Standards Board requirements. The City now has comprehensive information on the inventory, condition and construction history of significant public infrastructure such as roadways, sidewalks, storm sewers, roadside regulatory, warning and guidance signs, signalized intersections and City of Montgomery owned streetlights.

The annual street resurfacing project was completed by the John R. Jurgensen Company and included work on 6 City streets totaling 1.75 centerline miles of roadway. The areas of work were concentrated in 3 subdivisions, The Winds, Storybook Acres and Montgomery Woods.

The installation of a thin layer of surface treatment known as micro surfacing was completed on a portion of Montgomery Road between the intersection of Schoolhouse Lane and Perin Road and the entire length of Hopewell Road. Micro surfacing has proven to be a cost effective maintenance tool with a square

yard annual average life-cycle cost slightly lower than traditional hot mix asphalt pavement resurfacing. Micro surfacing is particularly effective on roadways with higher traffic volumes as there is a quicker installation process and a corresponding reduction in inconvenience and delays generally associated with resurfacing projects, has a surface texture designed to provide additional friction and skid resistance and provides a greater resistance to oxidation or color "fading" when compared with traditional hot mix asphalt overlays.

A project to replace approximately 2 miles of aging water main and 25 fire hydrants along portions



of Weller Road and Weil Road was completed during 2005. City staff worked closely with the Greater Cincinnati Water Works staff during planning and design work, development of project specifications and the inspection and coordination efforts during construction of the project. The water main and hydrant replacement project has improved water service reliability for everyday and emergency activities. The culmination of the project included resurfacing Weller Road north of the Weller-Weil intersections and all of Weil Road.

Construction of a new public sidewalk through the Storybook Acres and Shadowhill Acres subdivisions was completed during 2005. This was the second year of a sidewalk installation project to connect the intersection of Pfeiffer Road at Storybook Drive with the intersection of Shadowhill Way at Deerfield Road. Approximately 1,700 lineal feet of 5' wide concrete sidewalk was constructed along portions of Adventure Lane and Shadowhill Way during the 2005 project. This latest sidewalk installation was part of a multi year sidewalk installation program established by City Council legislation adopted in 2000.

Inspection and repair of all public sidewalks south of Mitchellfarm Lane was completed in 2005. This was the fifth year of the City of Montgomery inspection and repair program, which covers one quadrant of the City each year. The 2005 program marked the first year that repairs were completed in an area that was previously inspected and repaired under a City funded repair program. Repairs during 2005 included 2,070 square feet of concrete sidewalk removal and replacement at 42 separate locations and 51 locations of paver sidewalk repairs and realignment.

A project to improve and identify Parrott Alley as a pedestrian connection between the public parking lot west of Shelly Lane and Montgomery Road was completed



in time for the City's 2005 Bastille Day celebration (see cover photo). The pedestrian friendly design includes paver sidewalks that provide for the physical

separation of pedestrians and vehicles, seating areas, cylindrical shaped brick columns similar in design to columns at the Universalist Church, 3 redwood trellises supported by brick columns, improved lighting and a landscaping design that is both durable and attractive. This installation will be enjoyed by many residents and visitors to our community for years to come.

The City of Montgomery received Tree City USA status for the tenth consecutive year as well as receiving the Tree City USA Growth award for efforts to not only maintain but to improve the City's urban forest. The collaborative effort during 2005 by Montgomery City Council, the Montgomery Beautification and Tree Commission, citizen volunteers and City staff has once again allowed the City to be recognized as a community leading the way in urban forestry.

Parks & Recreation

The Montgomery Recreation Department offered a variety of programs throughout 2005 for toddlers, youth, teens, adults and seniors. More than 17,700 people of all ages participated in these programs and special events as participants, volunteers or spectators not including the attendance at the pool averaging around 450 people per day during this hot and dry summer (33,000 visits). Examples of such activities include adventure trips, sports lessons, art or drawing classes, fitness classes, school's out trips, specialty camps, cultural arts, festivals, concerts and many others.

The adults had a few new choices in the area of fitness and instructional classes. The fitness classes included the ongoing pilates or strength ball class, 20/20/20 fitness tri-fecta, and karate

through the spring. Some diversity was added by offering a core focused class called tummy tucks and a cardio circuit class in the fall as well as keeping the 20/20/20 and strength ball going. Adult golf, swim lessons, and a drawing course for adults were also added. Over 225 people participated in these special interest programs.

Summer Recreation Camp planned to offer a summer reprieve and interactive environment for area youngsters ages 6-12 with group games, crafts, special projects, swimming and day trips with weekly educational elements to compliment the Kids at Work theme. With only 11 youngsters signed up for this program, the recreation department had to cancel this long running camp. In doing so, the department met with the parents of the registered kids to solicit ideas to improve the camp offering to meet their needs and entice more kids into considering the 2006 camp season. Ideas for changes included extended care hours, more specialty camps, field trips only groups would attend and earlier advertising.

The teen Adventure Camp, took off with the adventurous in spirit in tow. Adventure camp challenged

a few thrill seekers on the paintball fields in West Chester, horseback riding at Salt Creek Ranch, spelunking in Ohio Caverns and canoeing down the little Miami River. We ended the week with a bit of relaxing but also the rush of the waves and splash of the Cliff at the Beach Waterpark. The adventure camp hosted 20-25 kids a day on these adventures and included 7 volunteers assisting with supervision.

A special series of programs for our youngest participants, tots ages 3-6, was added to the lineup this year. The program started with a mini-acting program based on the success of these programs in 2004 but this year, ImaginAntics and Explora with Dora did not draw in the little ones. Instead, we offered a new art series, Young Rembrandts, for both pre-school age and elementary kids. We had 15 kids participate in the 8-week series on drawing and another 27 kids participate in the special holiday art classes. Touch-A-Truck is another annual favorite with 250 little guests climbing, honking and pretending to fill the shoes of our local police, fire and service department workers. The Secret Garden beautification day kids program, the mom and me swim lessons, Mrs. Claus Workshop and a Story Time for little kids rounded out the opportunities for these little ones to recreate.



Bastille Day participants enjoyed a great day, a wide selection of food and drink, and children had a great time with games, shows and the ever-popular tricycle race.

Alongside the yearly recreation programming, the department's responsibilities include involvement in Montgomery's special events such as the July 3rd patriotic symphonic concert played to a crowd that continues to grow from year to year. The Fourth of

July celebration parade had floats and participants decked out in red, white and blue with hometown fun and festivities for hundreds of local groups, families and even costumed pets! The bikes on parade was a special entry with about 100 kids blazing down the streets on bikes, scooters, strollers and skateboards all with balloons and streamers of patriotic colors bringing the crowd to their feet in recognition. Sensory Sunday's three jazz/cuisine/art events dazzled the senses of 285 patrons at Terwilliger Lodge and Harvest Moon was equally as popular with warm weather drawing out over 2,800 guests for hayrides, pumpkin painting and sea-



Gangster and Gals was a popular event and some of the attendees really got into the spirit of the evening!

sonal crafts enhanced by the warm aroma of chili from the fire department's cooking contest. Bastille Day is a summertime favorite with kids games, CanCan Dancers, puppet shows, magicians and plenty of food to keep the 9,000 attendees on the street through the music performances in the evening. Cornhole Tournament and a Diaper Derby were new crowd pleasers during this Montgomery Celebration. This event continues to set the City apart with the involvement of Sister Cities Commission in adding a French feel and flair with strolling musicians, vocalists, flower carts, French cuisine, wines and artistry. A Gangsters and Gals Night Out in early September allowed 60 guests to strut their stuff in pinstripes and boas at Carlo and Johnny's. Montgomery's special events entertain thousands of guests and showcase the talent, style and uniqueness of this City to residents and visitors alike.

Holiday in the Village showcased the artistic talent of over 140 area grade-schoolers in the coloring contest and when the switch flipped to light the tree and the streets, 200 people's oohs and aahs could be heard along with the caroling voices and the holiday brass ensemble as a great start to the holiday season. The trolley coordination between Ohio National's Victorian Village and the Holiday Tree lighting enhanced both events and Bethesda Hospitals Light up a Life holiday events increased the giving spirit of the season. A growing family favorite, Pancake Breakfast with Santa, had the recreation department coordinating the chef skills of the fire department to feed 115 flapjack addicts and the kids' photos with Jolly Old Saint Nick will keep these holiday memories fresh throughout the year.

Other programming venues for 2005 included the July Eat to the Beat noon-time concert series in Swaim Park which added a lyrical vein to the pro-

gramming. The summer-long bike handling skills camp through Queen City Wheels brought several kids up to speed in skill development and conditioning and added a new dimension to our Bastille Day Trike races. Tennis and golf continued to draw participants to try a new discipline or to add variety in recreational sports. The spring Kids Garage Sale offered the younger kids an opportunity to sell some of their toys, clothes and collectibles for some summer fun money and the Montgomery Cyclery Bike Maintenance Clinic moved to join the Safety Center Open house and all were a great success. Three School's Out Day trips and a Spring Break Camp also served the community with active and entertaining trips for the 200 kids that took the opportunity to join us on field trips to a working farm, museums, horseback riding, skiing, sledding, pizzerias and other area fun spots. Recreation revenue totaled \$27,980 for 2005.

The Montgomery Municipal pool continued to enhance the value of membership with the addition of the gazebo shelter for group events and parties and the basketball courts, tether balls and the new after hours rental options offering alternative activities at the pool. We also added a "family with sitter" membership rate as well as a "couples" rate for our resident users. The swim team, the Montgomery Makos, continued to pack the house as a team of 120 swimmers in their fourth season in the Tri-County League and in doing so hosted four local meets. The swim team season opened with a Makos win and a successful season which led up to several personal victories at the league championships hosted at Miami University. Cincinnati Pool Management served as the contracted management at the pool which hosted an average of 450 patrons as daily guests and served the 2,000 plus members (555 memberships). Swim lessons had 390 people in the water learning the basics swimming skills. Several special events at the pool brought new guests and regular members out for evening fun at the showing of *Racing Stripes* and *The Incredibles* as Dive-In Movie events. The July 4th Splash-tacular was a cool reprieve from the oppressive July heat and the Beach Party lined up the young ones to participate in fun water games, limbo contests and hula-hoop fun. Pool revenue totaled \$228,923.

The City lodges hosted several local non-profit group activities and meetings as well as City events and functions. Also, the majority of weekend dates were rented for private weddings, receptions, retirements and other celebrations with revenue totaling \$45,740. The lodge rental policies and pricing were reviewed and updated to make available new rental opportunities for parties wishing to couple events between parks and facilities. Online information about the facilities and rental process opened the door to more potential users and revenue sources.



The City of Montgomery

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