



INTRODUCING A NEW AND IMPROVED MONTGOMERY WEBSITE

The City of Montgomery has launched its new website that aims to continually improve access to public services and information for the residents, businesses, and visitors of Montgomery.

The new, service-focused website is mobile-friendly, secured for user privacy protection, and prioritizes accessibility. The new website also better empowers those internally who manage digital services to the community.

“Our website will be the new digital government service center for the Montgomery community,” said Matthew Vanderhorst, community and information services director. “We’re taking this opportunity to use the power of modern technologies and build these new digital services openly, and collaboratively. Montgomery residents and businesses can expect us to continuously improve our digital government services with the new approach we’ve taken.”

The website includes a new digital services center, extensive frequently asked questions, news, events, contact directory, social media integration and online forms and payments.



Enhanced services and features include:

- Improved mobile-friendly design
- Predictive search
- My Services feature
- Updated government information
- Updated community information
- Improved public meetings
- New branding
- Website encryption
- Improved ADA compliance
- Issue reporting

Take a moment and check us out at montgomeryohio.org! We'd love to hear your feedback.

“REFLECTIONS, HOPE, PROMISE – AND PLANNING!”



Gerri Harbison
City Council

As we enter into this holiday season of family and friends, it is a good time to personally reflect on the events in our lives over the past year and look forward to the hope and promise of the New Year. I want to use this opportunity to touch briefly on some reflections of 2020 and upcoming projects for 2021 within our City.

If you listen to all the media reports, there is gloom and doom all around, and, of course, we know many lives have been touched by illness, confinement, and financial uncertainty, even here in Montgomery. We encourage you to remain strong and persevere, knowing your Montgomery community is here for you.

The City took measures this year to safely offer recreational opportunities and events to our community. Through prudent fiscal policies put in place a number of years ago, the City remains in a great financial position to continue to weather the storm. While we continually look for ways to cut costs, we do not cut corners. We are thankful that even in this economy, we can continue to provide excellent yet cost-effective service. Montgomery remains strong and resilient and as committed as ever to serving our community at all levels!

One of the biggest victims of these uncertain times is the small business owner who struggles to keep their doors open with much competition from their much bigger counterparts. And we on Council have heard concerns from some of you regarding vacancies around the Montgomery business community. Now is a great time to focus your attention on the many great shops, businesses, and restaurants within our boundaries. While being fiscally responsible to your own household, spend your shopping and dining dollars here to help our small business owners keep their doors open. Look around and see the many great opportunities here first before heading over to Kenwood or Deerfield Township. Help do your part to keep these great businesses in Montgomery as they continue to make us such a vibrant community.

As we move ahead in 2021, we will continue to focus on Citizen Engagement. Even though we made the tough decision to cancel the Montgomery Citizen's Leadership Academy (MCLA) in 2021, our doors are open, and we value your input. Plan to sign up and attend a new and improved 2022 version of MCLA.

I am writing this column in late October, and Election 2020 has not yet taken place. The year has been a time of social unrest and “mine versus your candidate.” However, as things shake out, know that our Diversity and Inclusion Committee will continue to work towards healing, acceptance, and understanding for all. We would love for you to get involved and plan on attending a Diversity and Inclusion Committee meeting or one of the “Get to Know Your Neighbor” evenings.

Council wishes all of you a happy and healthy holiday season. We are fortunate indeed to live in such a great community, and we need to work together to maintain it as the special “home” that it is to us all. For, after all, that is truly the spirit of what Montgomery is all about! I would like to close with the following:

“Don't Give Up on This Year, Keep Fighting for the Good

Keep Showing Up, Keep Loving and Keep Giving Back

Keep Being Kind, Keep Being Brave, Keep Caring

Keep Trying New Things, Keep Showing Grace

Keep On – The World Needs You to Believe in the Good!”

Author Unknown



COUNCIL CORNER

Montgomery City Council met in its regular monthly Work Session on November 18, 2020 at City Council Chambers and via teleconference.

Pending Legislation

An Ordinance Modifying Section 132.14, Noise, of The Montgomery Code of Ordinances (2nd reading)

An Ordinance to Make Appropriations for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of The City of Montgomery, State of Ohio, During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2021 (3rd reading)

New Legislation

A Resolution Adopting a Five-Year Capital Improvement Program for The City of Montgomery

A Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to The Current Contract with Donnellon, Donnellon and Miller for Legal Services to The City of Montgomery

RECENT COUNCIL ACTION - Approved Legislation

November 4, 2020

RESOLUTION 38 2020

A Resolution Finding That Public Safety Personnel Are Substantially Dedicated To Mitigating Or Responding To The Covid-19 Public Health Emergency **(passed 7-0)**

ORDINANCE 16 2020

An Ordinance Authorizing A Second Amendment To A Development Agreement By And Between The City Of Montgomery, Ohio, The Montgomery Community Improvement Corporation, And Gateway Partners Montgomery, LLC And Declaring An Emergency **(passed 6-yea, 1-abstain)**

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

EAC COLLECTS STRANDED HOLIDAY LIGHTS & EXTENSION CORDS

The City of Montgomery Environmental Advisory Commission is expanding its monthly recycling collection for December and January to include the collection of holiday decoration lights (stranded) and extension cords. Bring these items on either Dec. 19 or Jan. 16 to the Public Works facility, 7315 Cornell Road, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for recycling.

Support the City's recycling efforts to reduce the amount of trash going into landfills. Please do not forget to bring cardboard for recycling as well.



2021 MONTGOMERY CITIZENS' LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CANCELLED

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the City of Montgomery has decided to cancel the 2021 Montgomery Citizens' Leadership Academy (MCLA). We plan to resume the popular class again in 2022. This was a difficult decision, however City Council and staff ultimately decided it was the right thing to do for the overall safety and health of everyone involved and not diminish the tremendous MCLA experience.



MCLA 2020 Graduating Class

DINNER AROUND THE WORLD RECIPE COLLECTION

The Montgomery Sister Cities Commission is unable to hold the traditional gathering for the Dinner Around the World event in 2021. However, we still would love to share the great tastes that have been part of this event for so many years.

Instead of an in-person event, we would like for the community to share recipes so everyone can enjoy the great flavors in the safety of their home and for many years to come.

To participate, complete the Dinner Around the World Recipe Form on the City website, montgomeryohio.org.

The Sister Cities Commission will collect all of the recipes and share them with the community in early February 2021.



2020 FALL SEASONS OF BEAUTY AWARD WINNER

The City of Montgomery Beautification and Tree Commission has awarded the 2020 Fall Seasons of Beauty award to Mike Telljohann of 8728 Tanagerwoods Drive.

Mike's yard has garden beds surrounding the Mansard style house and is peppered with pocket gardens. Spooky Halloween decorations, including floating witch's hats, abound during the fall season and are visible during both the day and night. The plantings are a mixture of small shrubs, perennials, and annuals. Japanese Maple, Crepe Myrtle, Serviceberry, Smoke bush, and Weeping redbud are specimen plants. Some of the perennials include Hydrangea, Red Coneflowers, Windflowers, Indian Pinks, and Mums. This year's annuals are Dahlias, Lantana, Angelonia, Mona Lavender, and Snapdragons.

The Seasons of Beauty award recognizes homes and businesses in Montgomery with impressive front yards, window boxes, and planters that peak during specific seasons and those homes and businesses with decorative features that celebrate the "season" or holiday.

Nominate your home or neighbor's home by emailing a photo and short description to aaronkellenberger@gmail.com. The winter award winner will be selected in January and will be announced in the Montgomery Bulletin.



WHAT IS THE THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH? RECYCLE DAY!

In addition to curbside recycling, the City of Montgomery Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) offers an opportunity to recycle every third Saturday of the month. (Please refer to the Montgomery calendar for specific dates.)

- **Where:** The City of Montgomery Public Works Facility, 7315 Cornell Rd. Montgomery
- **When:** 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

For safety reasons, volunteers wear masks and ask that you remain in your vehicle.

Recyclables accepted every month include:

- Cardboard – free of grease or oils. Boxes flattened before drop-off is appreciated!
- Paper/paperboard – free of grease or oils. No tissue or wrapping paper!
- Metal – must be at least 50% metal and not contain chemicals (e.g., propane in tank).
- Empty pill containers – Over the counter and prescription. Please remove all Labels! (Pills can be disposed of at the Montgomery Police Department).
- Prescription eyeglasses and cases – broken frames, missing lenses, and glasses with no cases are accepted.

Seasonal Items include:

- Holiday light strands and electrical cords – November to January
- Plastic planter pots – April to October

For other recycling questions, please visit HamiltonCountyRecycles.org or call 513-946-7766.



Congratulations to Montgomery resident, Julie Hamel for winning the Holiday Card contest!

"We were delighted with Ms. Hamel's submission. It not only captured the season, but also features our iconic light post. We are excited to share the artwork with the community this festive season," noted Art Commission Chair Greg Leader.

UNLIMITED YARD WASTE CONTINUES

Holiday greenery pick-up begins January 2

Unlimited yard waste pick-up will resume on January 2, along with holiday greenery, and run for the first three Saturdays in January.

Rumpke will collect all greenery and any remaining yard waste on the following three Saturday dates:

- Saturday, Jan. 2
- Saturday, Jan. 9
- Saturday, Jan. 16

Christmas trees, wreaths, and swags can be placed at the curb along with yard waste and must be free of all plastic, flocking, tinsel, decorations, and wires. Dispose of wreaths or swags that have wires for support through regular trash. Residents will not be required to have a yard waste sticker attached to them. Please place all waste at the curb on Friday evening before the Saturday pick-up.

If the meteorologists call for freezing weather, all yard waste must be placed in paper bags.

Regular yard waste collection resumes the first week of March.



DECEMBER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Holiday in the Village (Adults/teens)

When: Saturday, December 5, 5:00 - 7:30 pm

Where: Downtown Montgomery

Assist with event activities.

For more specific information about this volunteer opportunity, contact DeAnna Gross at 513-792-8329 or dgross@montgomeryohio.org.



Photo credit: Fred Haaser

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A WINTER STORM?

Although we have enjoyed a reprieve from harsh winters we have grown accustomed to, we all still need to be prepared for inclement weather that can cause power outages, inhibit travel, and affect community services. Do you have a plan of action in case you were to experience any of these situations? As a WeTHRIVE! community, the City of Montgomery wants to make sure that residents have the tools they need to be prepared in the event of a winter storm event. Information is posted on this type of emergency and others on the City's website under the WeTHRIVE! Emergency Preparedness page. Look for details of how to prepare on the City's website at <http://www.montgomeryohio.org/pages/emergency-preparedness/>.



GIVE THE GIFTS OF TIME AND LEADERSHIP - JOIN A COMMISSION

The City is looking for individuals to commit to being more involved in the leadership of their community. One of the following City Boards/Commissions might be just the place! The initial step in getting involved is to attend an upcoming meeting of the commission you are interested in to learn more about their project work and meet the current members.

Beautification and Tree Commission

The Beautification and Tree Commission develops and updates a plan for the care of trees, shrubs, and flowers in all public areas. It advises the Administration and City Council on the prudent and productive use of financial resources for the purposes within its charge. The Commission proposes programs, submits an annual budget, supervises such undertakings as are authorized by City Council, and reports its progress annually on projects and activities within its responsibility. Commission activities include Beautification Week flower planting, Garden Tour, Arbor Day Celebrations, Tree City USA recognition, Plant Swaps, Downtown Holiday Decorating, hanging basket planting, and tree workshops. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals

The Board of Zoning Appeals conducts public hearings and meetings to review and decide action on variance requests and other appeals related to the provisions and administration of the City's Zoning Code. Commission members also assist with the Bastille Day event. Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Landmarks Commission

Members are responsible for the preservation of Montgomery's historical, architectural, and archaeological heritage. The commission conducts research and provides continuing education to foster awareness of the City's heritage. It also makes recommendations to the Planning Commission and City Council on matters of legislation and development that may affect the City's landmarks or heritage. Commission members assist with various annual special events. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.

There are no special qualifications required to volunteer for any Montgomery board or commission.

For further information and/or apply for the above position, contact DeAnna Gross, volunteer coordinator, at 513-792-8329 or dgross@montgomeryohio.org.



Beautification & Tree members volunteering at the Plant Swap

HATS OFF....

... to the myriad of **Montgomery Woman's Club members, Beautification and Tree Commissioners**, individual volunteers, and Public Works staff members for their work on the Holiday Decorating Project. This group of dedicated volunteers first prepared the many garlands, wreaths, and red bows at a "fluffing" workshop. Public Works then put up the greenery, and the volunteers dressed it in bows, making downtown Montgomery festive for the holiday season. A GREAT BIG Winter Cap Off to the Holiday Decorating Volunteers!



HATS OFF....

WINTER DRIVING SAFETY TIPS

Winter is a beautiful time of the year in Montgomery, especially when a fresh layer of snow covers everything. With the beauty of the season comes the dangers of driving among the wintery obstacles of snow and ice. In addition to making sure your vehicle is serviced and prepared for the winter months, here are some important safe driving tips:

- Clear all windows and lights from frost and snow.
- Leave extra early to account for potential traffic delays, and so you don't feel rushed.
- Drive with your headlights on and have a full tank of gas.
- Stock your car with essential driving equipment; a scraper and brush, small shovel, jumper cables, tow chain, and a bag of sand or kitty litter for traction.
- **LEAVE PLENTY OF ROOM FOR STOPPING.**
- Carry a cell phone with you at all times, and never walk away from your disabled vehicle to get help. Call for help (513-825-2280 or 513-985-1600) and wait for an officer or family member.
- Pay attention – Remember, the posted speed limits are on dry pavement. The more accurate speed limit is the speed necessary to control your car safely.
- Refrain from the temptation to check your phone. Utilize “hands-free” features of your car.
- Use brakes carefully – Test your brakes safely before you actually need to stop. It takes more time and distance to stop in adverse conditions.
- Bridges, overpasses, and ramps freeze first; therefore, be extra cautious when driving over them.
- Don't use cruise control in wintery conditions. Tapping your brakes to turn off cruise control could be hazardous. You should maintain total control of your car.
- Look further ahead in traffic than you usually do to increase your response time in case you need to brake safely or avoid other vehicles.
- Don't be overconfident in your 4x4 or SUV. Ice does not discriminate. These vehicles are still susceptible to ice and need to be driven accordingly.
- Leave room for salt trucks – stay back at least 70 feet and don't pass as there are blind spots on the right and left of the plows.
- Most importantly, remember to SLOW DOWN! Also, wear a seat belt at all times – it's the law.



HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY TIPS

You can help to keep your family safe and avoid holiday fire damage if you follow these **10** fire safety tips:

1. Install smoke detectors; change the batteries every year.
2. Install carbon monoxide detectors and make sure those batteries are fresh too.
3. Make sure to use a fireplace screen in working fireplaces.
4. Never burn wrapping paper, boxes, or other trash in your fireplace.
5. Don't leave a fire unattended; put the fire out before going to bed.
6. Candles are beautiful, but make sure they are in stable and secure holders and keep them away from combustible materials and small children. Never leave candles unattended.
7. Ensure real Christmas trees are put in a stable stand and keep it fresh by checking the water level daily. A dried tree is more susceptible to fire. Keep the tree away from heat sources that could dry it out. Most trees dry out in two weeks, so don't leave your tree up long past the holidays.
8. Check holiday lights for cracked or broken bulbs, frayed wires, and loose plugs. Don't use lights that aren't safe.
9. Use lights that have been approved by testing labs like Underwriters Laboratory (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM).
10. Use lights only in their designated areas; never use "indoor only" lights outdoors.
11. If your smoke, fire, or carbon monoxide detectors go off, get everyone outside and call 911. Don't try to solve the problem yourself.

Following these holiday fire safety tips will help to ensure that you enjoy a safer holiday season.



Did you know this holiday fire safety statistic? Every year, holiday fires cause approximately \$930 million in damages and injure 2,600 people.

Tree Lighting

Saturday, Dec. 5
5:00 p.m.
Neuilly -
Plaisance Plaza



After the tree lighting, Santa & the elves will be at Montgomery & Remington Road for socially distanced activities!

All activities will be held outdoors from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

- Safely Distanced Santa Visit
- Santa's Lantern Scavenger Hunt & Great Prize
- Distanced Holiday Craft
- Prepackaged Refreshments

Sponsored by:



KINDEL MEMORIAL HOLIDAY CONCERT

Sunday, Dec. 6, 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Concert from Montgomery Assembly of God Church

This year's theme will be "Classic Holiday Favorites!" This concert has become the traditional beginning to the holiday season for Blue Ash and Montgomery residents.

All Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Orchestra concerts are free to the public!

View the Concert on Dec. 6 at the following links:

<http://bamso.org>
<http://www.montgomeryohio.org>

Montgomery Park Explorer

Montgomery Tree Explorer

Enjoy the Montgomery Park Explorer and the Montgomery Tree Explorer programs together as a family. These free programs include workbooks for ages 2 to 5 and ages 6 and up. The workbooks provide participants with a variety of activities that will engage them in learning about local Montgomery parks and trees in a fun and active way.

Pick up workbooks at City Hall or download at montgomeryohio.org

Once completed, participants can turn in the workbooks any time, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Montgomery City Hall, 10101 Montgomery Road.

A member of the City recreation team will review the workbook and follow up with the participant. Completed workbooks will be given back to the participant to keep along with a certificate and patch.

For more information on these free programs, contact Sarah Fink, recreation specialist, at 513-792-8317





FITNESS

Experience updated group exercise equipment and classes. All equipment needed for classes is provided. Registration for **2021 - Session A** of fitness classes is open. Please visit the fitness page at montgomeryohio.org for class descriptions, important information and registration.

Please contact Sarah Fink, recreation specialist, by emailing sfink@montgomeryohio.org or by calling 513-792-8317 with any questions you may have.

Fitness Class Schedule 2021 - Session A						
Day	Class Name	Dates of Session	Session Length	Time of Class	Res.	Non-Res.
Mon.	Mixed Level Yoga	1/11 - 3/1	8 classes	9:30-10:30 a.m.	\$40	\$45
Tue.	Cardio Strength and Stretched *	1/12 - 3/2	8 classes	9:00-10:00 a.m.	\$40	\$45
Tue.	Tai Chi	1/12 - 3/2	8 classes	10:20-11:20 a.m.	\$80	\$90
Tue.	Pilates	1/12 - 3/2	8 classes	6:00-7:00 p.m.	\$40	\$45
Wed.	Mixed Level Yoga	1/13 - 3/3	8 classes	9:30-10:30 a.m.	\$40	\$45
Wed.	Beginner Level Yoga	1/13 - 3/3	8 classes	10:45-11:45 a.m.	\$40	\$45
Thur.	Cardio Strength and Stretched *	1/14 - 3/4	8 classes	9:00-10:00 a.m.	\$40	\$45
Thur.	Pilates	1/14 - 3/4	8 classes	6:00-7:00 p.m.	\$40	\$45

* Cardio Strength and Stretched (formerly known as 20/20/20 - same great class, new name!)

The Recreation Annex building will be closed December 21 - January 8 due to the holidays, holiday decorating, and annual maintenance. We hope you have a wonderful holiday season and look forward to seeing you in 2021.



COLD WEATHER FITNESS TIPS

Whether you have a fitness routine or not, now is a great time to establish new fitness goals to propel you through the cold winter months and into a new year.

- Be realistic with winter fitness goals.
- Balancing family gatherings and making time for fitness does not have to be difficult.
- Take advantage of the time change to fit in an active hour into the daily schedule.
- Be sure to do a proper warm-up and stretch fully. Doing this may help to reduce muscle soreness and lessen the risk of injury.
- When exercising in the cold, dress to stay dry, not just warm. Utilize moisture-wicking fabrics in layers. This will keep your body dry and warm. Also, remember to dress to stay visible, utilizing bright colors.
- Cooler temperatures and winter fun provide new motivation to get outside and enjoy a run or walk in the park or playground and sledding time with the family.
- As the weather becomes colder, motivation could begin to dwindle. Transition your fitness indoors throughout the colder months. Taking a new fitness class can add some variety to a fitness routine while staying motivated and on track with fitness goals well into the winter months.



10101 Montgomery Road
Montgomery, Ohio 45242

Mayor
Chris Dobrozsi

Vice Mayor
Craig Margolis

Council Members
Lee Ann Bissmeyer
Mike Cappel
Gerri Harbison
Lynda Roesch
Ken Suer

Clerk of Council
Connie Gaylor

City Manager
Brian Riblet

Emergency
911
Non-Emergency
• **Police Dept.**
513-985-1600
• **Fire Dept.**
513-985-1633

Public Works
513-792-8355
**Planning/Zoning/
Building**
513-792-8309
City Hall
513-891-2424

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DECEMBER 2020 EVENTS

All event dates are subject to change or cancellation. Check the website and social media for the most up-to-date information.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5 Holiday in the Village – Historic Downtown Montgomery Tree Lighting 5:00 p.m. Activities 5:30-7:30 p.m.
6 BAMSO Holiday Concert, virtual 7:00 p.m.	7 Beautification and Tree Commission, TBD, 9:00 a.m. Planning Commission, TBD 7:30 p.m.	8 Environmental Advisory Commission, TBD 5:00 p.m.	9 Landmarks Commission TBD 7:00 p.m.	10	11	12 Breakfast with Santa CANCELLED
13	14	15	16 Council Work Session, City Hall 7:00 p.m.	17	18 Sycamore Community Schools closed, Winter break begins	19 Cardboard Recycling 7315 Cornell Road 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
20	21 Planning Commission, TBD 7:30 p.m.	22 Board of Zoning Appeals, TBD 7:00 p.m.	23	24 Christmas Eve City Offices Closed, Trash pickup as usual	25 Christmas Day City Offices Closed Trash pickup, delayed one day	26
27	28 Arts Commission, TBD 5:00 p.m.	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	