

## Speaker Bios



**Ron Meser** and his family have resided in Montgomery for 35 years. He served in the U.S. Army for four years and is retired from Procter & Gamble. He holds a master's in business from Georgia State University. He attended MCLA in 2018, became a CERT member in 2013, and most recently served on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Ron enjoys spending time with his wife and family, including his nine grandchildren, watching sports, reading, and volunteering. He is currently on the Board of Directors for Matthew 25 Ministries.



**Matthew Vanderhorst** served as Information Technology Director for the City of Montgomery from July 2001 through August 2006, Customer Service Director from August 2006 through June 2014, and currently serves as Community and Information Services Director. He has been employed in the information technology and customer service fields since 1997. His prior experience includes serving on active duty in the United States Air Force from 1988 to 2001 as a healthcare network

administrator and web developer. Matthew received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Information Technology from the University of Phoenix. He is a graduate of the Leading, Educating, and Development Program from the University of Virginia, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service. In 2019, Matthew received his certification as a Certified Government Digital Service Professional and served on the board of the National Association of Government Web Professionals (NAGW).



**Amy Frederick** joined the City of Montgomery in 2021 as the Communication and Engagement Coordinator. She has worked in broadcasting for 20 years. Amy started her career in 1997 at WXIX-TV in Cincinnati producing FOX19 in the morning. In 2004, she moved to Cox Media Group in Dayton, Ohio. While with Cox, Amy produced an evening newscast with WHIO-TV and was a reporter for WHIO-AM radio in the morning. Amy graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in journalism. She is also a graduate of the Leading, Educating, and

Development Program from the University of Virginia, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service.



**John Kays** - My wife and I are originally from the Twin Cities of Minnesota however, we met in college at the University of Wisconsin - Madison in 1985. We married in November of 1990. We lived all of our adult lives in Ohio (Canton, Toledo) with short stints in Appleton, WI and Woodbury, MN before making Cincinnati, OH our home in 2005 when we moved here due to a job promotion with Ethicon Endo-Surgery in Blue Ash, my employer at the time. All of our four children are Sycamore alumni and our fourth (Austin) is currently a Senior. My wife Elizabeth has worked at Symmes Elementary for many years as an Educational Assistant and loves her work. I retired from Intuitive Surgical, Inc as Sr. Marketing

Director on April Fools day earlier this year. Our three oldest children were all soon married right after my retirement. That was expensive!! I'm a very active musician and have played in a number of bands over the years. My current project is Crown Watts which was started in 2017. I also perform acoustic solo shows at several local venues. Also, over the summer, I earned my commercial driving license and you can find me most days driving a Sycamore School Bus. My wife and I have also recently bought a camper and look forward to many trips as we discover America.



**Harshana Patel** - I moved to Montgomery in 2010 and my husband has been fortunate to call this place home since the 70s. I am a mom to three amazing boys currently at Sycamore Community Schools. In 2021, I transitioned into IT after a background in the legal and business field. I am an active volunteer in the PTO and serve on the PTO Board. I also volunteer with Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, club sports, and other organizations. I enjoy watching sports, walking, spending quality time with family and friends, music, traveling, and trying new things.