

# 2017 Annual Report

## Overview



### About this report

The annual report is a comprehensive document detailing the achievements across all City departments and includes a full financial record for 2017. The annual report is 100 percent web based and contains videos and interactive charts. In addition, each page is printer friendly.

### Mission

“Providing superior services and engaging with you to enhance our community!” This report outlines how Montgomery City Council and City staff worked to deliver on this mission in 2017.

### 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 35 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 10,251 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 65 full-time and 40 part-time employees. Services provided by the City of Montgomery include: police and fire protection, development plan review and building inspections, recreational 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 Community Schools district, which has drawn national recognition for academic excellence. Sycamore Community Schools operate four elementary schools, an intermediate school, a junior high school and a high school.

Montgomery is home to a variety of commercial enterprises including: Bethesda North Hospital, Ohio National Financial Services, Columbia Chevrolet, Camargo Cadillac and many banking institutions just to name a few. In addition, the historic downtown is a thriving retail and dining area, including the famous Montgomery Inn Restaurant. The addition of the Triangle/Gateway Center development in 2007 brought several new businesses to the downtown area, including the very popular Stone Creek Dining Company. The City of Montgomery is also home to several churches of various denominations and other types of religious institutions.

## Vision

Our efforts are focused on striving to attain...

1. A community that is forward thinking, yet respects its rich history and tradition and emphasizes the importance of blending history with innovation for a prosperous future.
2. Partnerships with citizens, businesses, and organizations who are engaged and bring diversity in background, beliefs and talents, and contribute to the success of our community.
3. Vibrant and prosperous businesses and organizations that make Montgomery a premier location for entertainment, shopping, and employment opportunities.
4. Diverse housing options, safe neighborhoods, renowned schools, outstanding parks, and hometown special events.

5. A City that delivers superior and innovative services and programs that are financially self-sustainable.
6. Employees who represent the very best in public service.
7. Stewardship of our environment.

**We are Montgomery!**

# City Council



Laith Alfaqih- appointed  
March 2017 through  
November 2017



Lee Ann Bissmeyer- sworn  
in December 2017



Mike Cappel



Chris Dobrozsi



Gerri Harbison



Craig Margolis



Lynda Roesch



Ken Suer

The City of Montgomery operates under a council-manager form of government with seven elected City Council members working with a city manager appointed by City Council with the support of a clerk of council and a law director. All City Council members are elected at large by a popular vote of residents for staggered terms of four years. Once seated, City Council members choose the Mayor who serves for a two-year term.

City Council is responsible for establishing policies and enacting legislation necessary for municipal operations. City Council appoints the city manager, law director, and clerk of council. By charter, the city manager serves as the City's chief executive, administrative and law enforcement officer.

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

On December 6, 2017, Council Member Lee Ann Bissmeyer was sworn in after being elected in November 2017. Lee Ann and her family have been residents for almost 20 years.

Council said goodbye to Council Member Laith Alfaqih in December 2017. Mr. Alfaqih was appointed to City Council in March of 2017, filling the vacancy left by the resignation of Council Member Ann Combs. Laith remains very active in the City volunteering on the Environmental Advisory Commission as well as other volunteer projects.

In an effort to maintain communications between City Council and the boards, commissions and civic organizations, several initiatives were undertaken including:

- Each board/commission chair was invited to update City Council on the activities and work of the respective board/commission for the previous year.
- City Council and the administration conducted an annual board and commission member orientation session.
- A Community Leadership Forum was held to provide an opportunity for volunteers, neighborhood association representatives, civic groups, local school officials, business leaders, elected officials and City administration to discuss topics of interest.

As part of City Council's responsibilities for establishing policies and enacting legislation, it oversaw operations and administration of a budget of \$32,683,446 and adopted 60 ordinances and resolutions, the highlights of which follow:

## 2017 Council Action

- A Resolution Establishing City Contributions to Employee Health Savings Account
- A Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Dayton Mailing Services, Inc. D/B/A DMS Ink for Design and Production Services
- A Resolution Designating Brian Riblet as Interim City Manager

- A Resolution Authorizing Additional Compensation for the Interim City Manager
- A Resolution to Adopt a Recommendation from the Montgomery Tax Incentive Review Council with Respect to the Compliance of all Tax Increment Financing Districts within the City of Montgomery
- A Resolution Establishing City Contributions for Healthcare Benefits
- A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Humana Health Plan of Ohio, Inc. to Provide Medical Insurance for Full-Time Employees
- A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Dental Care Plus, Inc. to Provide Dental Insurance Coverage for Full-Time Employees
- A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Federal Local Let Project Agreement with The Ohio Department of Transportation for the Project known as the HAM-SR 126/US 22-20.00/13.19 Montgomery Road Multi-Lane Roundabout Project, PID NO. 104936
- A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Federal Local LET Project Agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the Project Known as the HAM-US 22-14.74 Montgomery Road Phase II Sidewalk Project, PID NO 104934
- A Resolution Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and the Hamilton County Transportation Improvement District
- A Resolution Correcting Resolution No 25, 2017 Concerning Compensation for the Interim City Manager
- A Resolution Authorizing the Interim City Manager to Enter into A Contract with Gateway Partners, LLC To Purchase Professional Services Related to The Gateway Redevelopment Area Project
- A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into A Contract with Morton Salt Company for The Purchase of De-Icing Rock Salt for the 2017 Season
- A Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Hamilton County Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to The County Auditor
- A Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Great Lakes Recycling, Inc. D/B/A Simple Recycling
- A Resolution Authorizing the Interim City Manager to Enter into A Labor Agreement with The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Ohio Council 8,



AFL-CIO for Wages and Benefits for Employees Within the Department of Public Works from September 1, 2017 Through August 31, 2020

- A Resolution Accepting a Bid and Authorizing the Interim City Manager to Enter into A Contract with Rumpke Of Ohio, Inc. For Waste Collection Services in The City of Montgomery for Calendar Years 2018-2022
- A Resolution Adopting a Five-Year Capital Improvement Program for the City of Montgomery
- A Resolution Declaring the Necessity of Levying a 5 Mill Tax in Excess of the 10-Mill Limitation and Requesting the County Auditor to Certify Matters in Connection Therewith
- A Resolution Declaring the Necessity of Levying A 6 Mill Tax in Excess of the 10-Mill Limitation and Requesting the County Auditor to Certify Matters in Connection Therewith
- A Resolution Authorizing the Interim City Manager to Execute a Service Agreement Governing the Vintage Club-North Project
- A Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to The Current Contract with Donnellon, Donnellon & Miller for Legal Services to The City of Montgomery
- An Ordinance for The Allocation of Earnings Tax Revenues and Amending Section 44.14 of The Montgomery Code of Ordinances
- An Ordinance Amending the Land Usage Code to Regulate Sexually Oriented Businesses
- An Ordinance Rezoning a Portion of the Vintage Club Development to L-B Limited Business District with A Planned Development Overlay
- An Ordinance Amending the Statement of Conditions and Exceptions in The Vintage Club Planned Development Overlay District
- An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting the 2016/2017 Recodification to the Code of Ordinances and Declaring an Emergency
- An Ordinance Authorizing Jolain Drive Stormwater Sewer Project Public Improvements
- An Ordinance Vacating a Public Roadway Use and Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Real Estate Rights to Twin Lakes
- An Ordinance to Amend Appropriations for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of the City of Montgomery, State of Ohio, During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2017
- An Ordinance Establishing an Interim Development Control Overlay District to Control Medical Marijuana Businesses
- An Ordinance Establishing the Terms for Various Boards and Commissions

- An Ordinance Amending Tax Incentive Agreement with Sycamore Community School District
- An Ordinance Accepting Dedicated Stormwater Improvements in the Montgomery Woods Subdivision
- An Ordinance to Amend Appropriations for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of The City of Montgomery, State of Ohio, During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2017
- 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, 2018
- An Ordinance Amending the Schedule of Municipal Compensation
- An Ordinance to Amend Appropriations for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of The City of Montgomery, State of Ohio, During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2017



# Administration



The administration department is comprised of the city manager and the human resources manager. Under the city manager, the administration department provides professional leadership in the execution of City Council policies and the day-to-day management of the City. The department is responsible for overseeing the coordination and direction of all City services on a daily basis, provides direct support to Montgomery City Council, and serves as a liaison between the City of Montgomery and other organizations.

The year 2017 was a transitional year for City administration with the departure of former City Manager Wayne Davis in August and the appointment of Brian Riblet as interim city manager in September of 2017. After a nationwide search City Council made the decision to appoint Brian Riblet as the city manager on January 8, 2018.

## **2016-2021 Strategic Plan**

The City of Montgomery uses strategic planning to set long-term goals and these goals then guide the City. Over the past 20 years, the City has undertaken strategic planning in five-year increments. This strategic plan serves as a tool that is used extensively by City Council and the City workforce to track and manage progress toward the completion of the strategies associated with each goal.

In 2015, the City contracted with the University of Cincinnati's Institute for Policy Research and Management Partners, Inc. to conduct a resident survey. A total of

911 households responded. City staff also prepared an environmental scan that provided trend data and projections about major factors that are likely to affect the City in the future. Both of these efforts helped City Council members and staff prepare for the strategic planning workshop.

In collaboration with the City's strategic planning team, Management Partners, INC. prepared a workbook to assist participants with their preparation for the strategic planning workshop. The two-day workshop, held in August of 2015, included the Mayor, City Council members, city manager department directors and staff from each department. During the strategic planning workshop, City leaders and staff worked together to refine the vision and mission, and craft goals and strategies to guide the City to the year 2021.

The 2016-2021 strategic plan consists of the following five goals:

*Goal 1: Montgomery delivers core services through innovation and partnerships consistent with our vision by assessing changes in customer demands, demographics and the environment.*

*Goal 2: Montgomery has a quality of life that makes it a premier community.*

*Goal 3: Montgomery attracts and retains businesses that contribute to the long-term stability of the City, while maintaining our small town historic feel.*

*Goal 4: Montgomery will retain and attract quality and diverse housing options while maintaining a small town feel and effectively managing the infrastructure impacts of redevelopment.*

*Goal 5: Montgomery's fiscal plan supports City operations consistent with policy, while managing risk to provide services in the most efficient and effective manner.*

Several implementation steps and tasks were addressed throughout the second year.

- A communication strategy was developed to facilitate dialogue and educate the public about the City's ability to impact all traffic issues including traffic flow, potential traffic improvements and any applicable Ohio Department of Transportation requirements,
- Social media trends were researched and expanded to include the use of Facebook Live and Periscope to ensure the City effectively reaches and engages the local audience,
- Terry's Favorite Tree series was added to the Montgomery Bulletin to educate, market, and encourage tree planting and preservation on private property,
- Work with Life Enriching Properties to complete approvals for the building expansion of the main campus and any proposed projects on their property on Montgomery Road south of the Safety Center.

Community Development focused heavily on housing in 2017. Staff completed the following tasks:

- Developed a list of vacant or underutilized properties that if developed or redeveloped would enhance the community;
- Utilized the Open City Hall module on the City website to solicit feedback about housing options from residents;
- Partnered with the Ohio Builder’s Association to solicit feedback from local builders about market demand and impediments to meeting market demand in Montgomery; and
- Developed an inventory of locations for potential higher density residential development/redevelopment within the City.

## Development Projects

The City of Montgomery is fortunate to be the site of three significant development and redevelopment projects. When completed, these projects will contribute to the overall economic viability and quality of life for not just the City of Montgomery, but also for other surrounding communities in Hamilton County. Much staff time from administration, finance, community development and public works departments was devoted to these projects in 2017.

### *Gateway Redevelopment Area (GRA)*

When completed, the Gateway Redevelopment Area (GRA) will transform the vacant property at the City’s southern corporate line into a welcoming “gateway” to the community. An integrated Master Plan for the site will ensure that this mixed-use project is compatible in scale and design to the Historic District with an emphasis on a pedestrian-oriented lifestyle and parking needs. City staff continued to work closely with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) regarding modifications to the interchange of Ronald Reagan Cross County Highway and Montgomery Road to ensure efficient traffic flow.





### *Twin Lakes Senior Living Community*

Twin Lakes will be expanding its main campus with the addition of 45 independent living apartments and a new club-like dining venue, which will be located adjacent to a new auditorium/community room. A retail component along Montgomery Road will also be added as a second phase. Plans also include construction of a memory support assisted living facility. Staff worked diligently with Twin Lakes' representatives to ensure that plans for this major expansion of facilities and services will be successful.



### *Vintage Club of Montgomery*

Much staff time was devoted to efforts to bring plans for the final phase of this mixed-use project to fruition. The Village section of the Vintage Club will be an attractive mixed-use development with retail, office, restaurants, and condominiums, which will complement the existing homes and The Christ Hospital Health Network medical office building. Staff time was also devoted to planning for public improvements, including parking, streetscape and pedestrian gathering spaces, which will complement this final phase of development at the Vintage Club.



## Sister Cities Exchanges

Council Member Mike Cappel and Community Information Services Director Matthew Vanderhorst visited the Village of Montgomery, New York, in support of the sister cities relationship created some years ago. Council Member Cappel gained much support as he set out on his bicycle to make the estimated 750-mile trip. The Cities' website



tracked his progress on the "Where in the World is Mike Cappel" page, viewed [here](#). Many original Montgomery, Ohio settlers came from the Village of Montgomery, New York. Council Member Cappel and Matthew Vanderhorst participated in the General Montgomery Day Parade on September 9, 2017, and met with several Village officials to develop a schedule for future interactions to build the relationship.

## Shared Service Opportunities

The City continued to pursue shared services opportunities in the following areas:

- The City continued its technology partnership with Sycamore Community Schools to share a telephone system which is managed by Sycamore Community Schools for the City of Montgomery.
- The City continued to partner with the City of Blue Ash for street maintenance and information sharing on winter weather operations.
- The public works department continues maintenance of the I-275/Montgomery Road intersection.



This effort was accomplished in partnership with the Ohio

Department of Transportation (ODOT), Sycamore Township, and Symmes Township to maintain the I-275 overpass area on Montgomery Road from Weller Road to Vintage Club

Boulevard to include street sweeping, cleaning of medians and mowing of identified areas around the overpass.

The City's shared services pursuits demonstrate commitment to regional leadership and stewardship for all of the taxpayers in the region and the state.

## **Staff: Local, Regional and National Organizational Leadership Roles**

In 2017, the City continued its role in leading in regional, state and national organizations. To this end, several City staff members contributed and continue to offer their resources, over and above their primary job responsibilities, to a variety of professional organizations. The following is only a partial listing of the groups to which City staff contributed:

- **Brian Riblet**, public works director, is the first vice-president of the Public Works Officers Association of Southwest Ohio (PWOSO) and is a member of the American Public Works Association;
- **John Crowell**, police chief, is the assistant commander of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team in Hamilton County;
- **Greg Vonden Benken**, assistant police chief, is a Hamilton County Police Association Executive Board Member, is a member of the Warren County Police Academy Advisory Panel, is a member of the Sycamore Safe & Secure Schools and the Sycamore Threat Assessment Team;
- **Mike Davenport**, police sergeant, Hamilton County Police Association Executive Board Member;
- **Matthew Vanderhorst**, community and information services director, serves in a Alliance for Innovation Advancing New Leader working group;
- **Paul Wright**, fire chief, is the chairman of the Ohio Fire and Emergency Services Foundation, and serves on the Cincinnati State College Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board, the Hamilton County BioWatch Committee, the State of Ohio Medical Transportation Committee and the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association Legislative Committee.
- **Tracy Roblero**, community development director, and **Melissa Hays**, zoning and code compliance officer, are members of the American Planners Association.
- **Ben Shapiro**, assistant fire chief, is the commander for the Hamilton County Fire Investigation Unit, a member of the Greater Cincinnati Regional Arson and Fire Investigators Seminar Committee and a member of Sycamore Safe and Secure Schools.

- **Paul Payne**, Sycamore High School resource officer, is the past president of the Ohio School Resource Officers Association;
- **Katie Smiddy**, finance director, is a member of both the national and state of Ohio Government Finance Officers and Public Treasurers Associations. She is a member of the Southwest Ohio Municipal Finance Officers and the Greater Cincinnati Government Finance Officers Associations. Katie has also been a member of the Southwest Ohio Tax Administrators Association and the Ohio Municipal League Tax Committee.
- **Cindy Abner**, finance specialist is a member of the Southwestern Ohio Tax Administrators Association.
- **Connie Gaylor**, administrative coordinator, completed her term as the President of the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of the American Society of Public Administrators and is a member of the Ohio Municipal Clerks Association;
- **Ja'net Crawford**, mayor's court clerk, is the president of the State of Ohio Mayor's Court Clerk Association, the president of the Southwest Ohio Mayor's Court Clerk Association and a member of the Ohio Municipal Court Clerk Association.
- **Gary Heitkamp**, assistant public works director, is a member of the Association of State Floodplain Managers and the American Public Works Association.
- **Julie Machon**, recreation coordinator, and Sarah Fink, recreation specialist, are members of the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association, the National Recreation and Parks Association and the International Festival and Events Association.
- **Julie Prickett**, human resources manager, is a member of the Greater Cincinnati Human Resources Association (GCHRA), the Ohio Public Employer Labor Relations Association (OHPELRA), and the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM).
- **Faith Lynch**, communications and engagement coordinator, is a member of the Public Relations Society of America-Cincinnati Chapter and served on its programming committee.

## Grants

Staff continually seeks out grant funding sources from federal, state and local levels that aid the City in completing its many capital improvement and equipment replacement programs.



## Achievements

The City of Montgomery was formally recognized for a number of achievements in 2017.

- The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) awarded the City the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016. This is a great honor for the City of Montgomery, as it is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. The year 2017 represents the 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year the City has received this award.
- The Miami Valley Risk Management Association (MVRMA) completed the 2015/2016 Safety Performance Evaluation Checklist (SPEC) assessment of the City of Montgomery's safety program and loss control measures resulting in a 100 percent compliance rating with the safety compliance checklist.
- The City has been selected as one of the Business Courier's 2017 Healthiest Employers of Greater Cincinnati.
- The City was honored with an *Outstanding Achievement in Local Government Innovation Award* for the Public Works Department's recent Stormwater Improvement Project, including a 5,000-gallon rain harvesting system, at the Transforming Local Government Conference in Tulsa, OK.
- The American Public Works Association (APWA) awarded the City with an *Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award*.
- The Southwest Ohio Chapter of APWA also presented the City with an award for *Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award*.
- The City was awarded the *Silver Healthy Worksite Award* under the small business category for the Healthy Business Council Organization.
- The Miami Valley Risk Management Association (MVRMA) has recognized the police department for being in 100 percent compliance with the recommended Law Enforcement Best Practices.
- The City was recently named fifth among the top 50 communities in Cincy Magazine's 11th annual *Rating of the Burbs*. Top awards went to Madeira, Union Township (Warren County), Terrace Park and Springboro.



Public Works Assistant Director Gary Heitkamp (left) receives the Outstanding Achievement in Local Government Innovation Award on behalf of the City of Montgomery from Shannon Flanagan-Watson, assistant county manager for Arlington County, VA, and board vice-chair of the Alliance for Innovation, at the 2017 Transforming Local Government Conference, held in Tulsa, OK, April 19 – 21, 2017.

Clearly, 2017 continued the City's trend of outstanding value for the community it serves. The City is positioned to carry forward its tradition of maintaining financial stability, fostering community engagement, and seeking innovation in outstanding customer service delivery – all with an eye on delivering value to its customers who are the citizens, businesses, visitors and institutions which make up our community.

# Community Development



The community development department is responsible for administering the City's building and zoning codes as well as property maintenance code enforcement. The department consists of three full-time staff, which includes a director, zoning and code compliance officer and a building and development office manager. In addition, there is a part-time special projects coordinator as well as support from the community and information services staff and an inspector in the public works department. The City contracts for building, electrical and plumbing plan review and inspections with outside agencies. In addition to building permitting, the community development department is also responsible for strategic and long-range planning, economic and business development and general community development projects. It provides staff support to the Planning Commission, Landmarks Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals.

## Development Activity

An updated General Development Plan for the Village Section of the Vintage Club of Montgomery was approved by the Planning Commission in May of 2016. The City originally approved the establishment of the Vintage Club Planned Development in 2006 for approximately 15 acres along Montgomery Road north of I-275 to



allow the creation of a mixed-use village with residential and commercial uses. The updated General Development Plan is a reflection of months of work by the developer in order to meet the expectations of the City and the residents of the Vintage Club while working with the current market conditions. City staff continued to work with the developer in 2017 to bring this project to fruition with the public portion of the project being put out to bid in November of 2017. The final product will be an attractive mixed-use development with retail, office, restaurants and condominiums that will complement the existing homes and The Christ Hospital Health Network medical office building.

On the southern end of the City, work continues on the planning of the Gateway Redevelopment Area (GRA). This mixed-use project will feature a unique blend of an urban-suburban lifestyle and will include professional office, boutique hotel, condominiums and a restaurant row built around a new community green. As part of the project, the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) approved and awarded funding for a grant application submitted by the City for an interchange modification project at Montgomery Road and Ronald Reagan Cross County Highway. The project includes construction of a modified two-lane roundabout, installation of a traffic signal in and around the interchange, and demolition of the existing bridge at this location. The project would have a safe and positive impact on traffic while opening up more land for redevelopment. The OKI grant of \$6,000,000 represents approximately 70 percent of the total estimated construction cost of \$8,600,000 and the project is currently programmed in the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) fiscal year 2020.

There were other positive developments in the city during the year, including the opening of seven new businesses. A new residential subdivision, Orchard Trail, began construction in 2016 and three additional building permits were issued in 2017. The 29-lot, single-family, detached subdivision is on the site of the former Montgomery Swim and Tennis Club on Orchard Club Drive. Camden Homes will be developing the site and building the homes. The new subdivision will feature high-end, empty-nester type housing with a pocket park and a walking trail.



Twin Lakes Senior Living Community continued work on a building addition to the main campus, 9840 Montgomery Road, in 2017. The addition will include 45 additional independent living apartments and a new club-like dining venue, which will be located adjacent to a new auditorium/community room. A retail building was added along Montgomery Road



with Stone Creek Dining Company opening at the new location in January of 2018. The building will house two additional tenants in the future. Twin Lakes is hopeful that construction on the main campus expansion will be completed by spring of 2018. Twin Lakes also began construction of 22 new villa homes just south of the Safety Center on Montgomery Road. These villa homes are an extension of Twin Lakes North Campus and are accessed from Arborcreek Lane off of Hopewell Road.

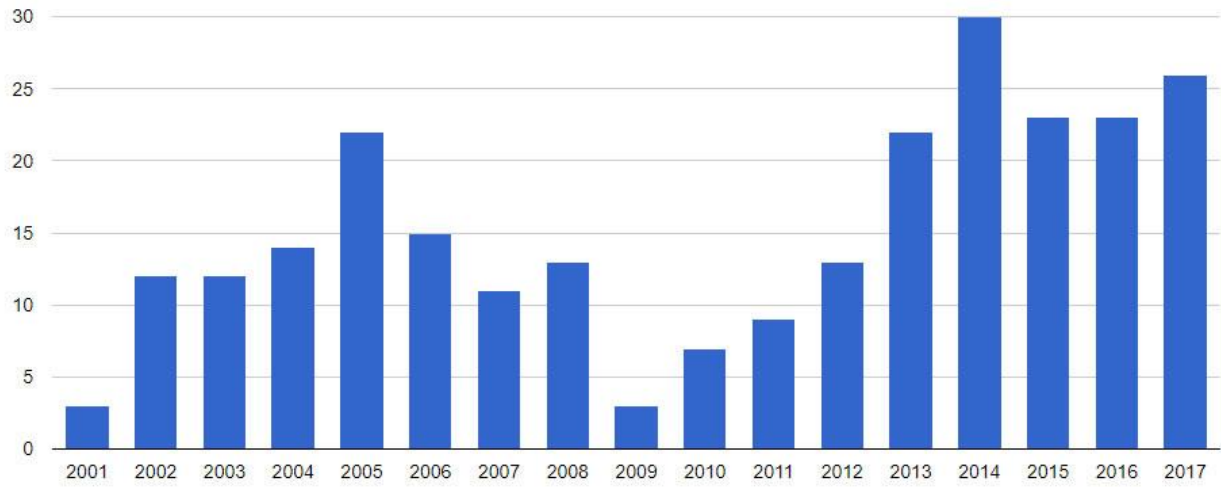
TriHealth also received General Development Plan approval for a 135,000 square foot medical office building to be known as the Thomas Comprehensive Care Center. The new building and associated parking garage are located on the Bethesda North Hospital campus and TriHealth is hopeful to begin construction by the end of 2018.



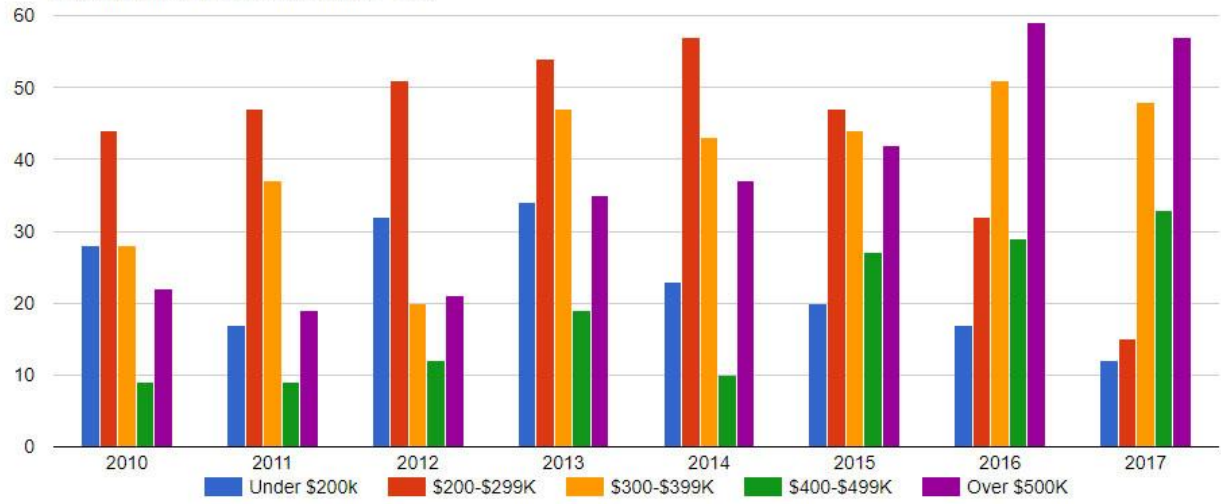
Stone Creek Dining Company

Three commercial building permits for new construction and expansion were issued in 2017. One new building permit was issued for the construction of the new retail building at 9856 Montgomery Road, located on the Twin Lakes Senior Living Community Campus. A building permit for an addition was issued to the City for the construction of the Public Works building addition. The final commercial building permit for new construction was issued for an addition to an existing building at Gate of Heaven Cemetery to allow for additional niches for inurnment of cremains. The total value of improvements for new commercial construction, expansion and additions was significantly lower in 2016 due in large part to the building addition at Twin Lakes Main Campus, permitted in 2016, despite continued construction in 2017. The total value of new commercial, commercial additions and alterations was \$4.5 million in 2017 versus \$31.7 million in 2016.

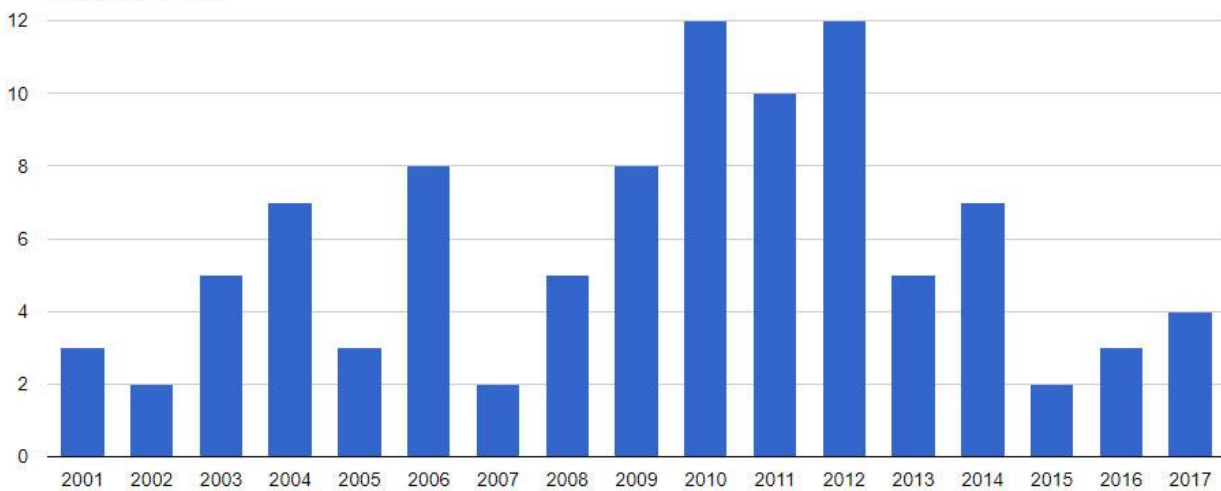
**Number of Teardowns - 2017**



**Housing Units Sold Per Price Range - 2017**



**Foreclosures - 2017**



## Community and Information Services



The community and information services department is responsible for the planning and implementation of community engagement efforts, volunteer coordination, information technology services, front desk customer services and administrative support and services. The department also serves as the focal point for all City communications. The community and information services director oversees an administrative coordinator, a communications and engagement coordinator, a customer service representative and a volunteer coordinator. The department also works with a contracted director of citizen engagement. It is the daily goal of these staff members to deliver services that meet the City's mission, with actions and behaviors consistent with the City's values and leadership philosophy.



## Community Engagement

The City of Montgomery celebrated the tenth year of offering the Montgomery Citizens' Leadership Academy (MCLA), which continued to be a popular activity for some of our most engaged citizens. Approximately 29 residents and local business professionals became highly engaged citizens over the course of ten weeks by diving deep into issues of local importance and gaining first-hand knowledge of the inner workings of local government and each of our partners:

Sycamore Community Schools, Bethesda North Hospital, Twin Lakes Senior Living Community, and Ohio National Financial Services. For the tenth anniversary, the partners were honored for their ongoing contributions to the Academy.



The MCLA Alumni gathered for the second annual MCLA 2.0, "a graduate-level course" on March 29, 2017, at Montgomery Inn. MCLA graduates were invited to this workshop to augment their MCLA experience by providing them with a strong understanding and awareness of the multiple,

critical components involved in economic development and zoning along the Montgomery Road Commercial Corridor. Law Director Terry Donnellon addressed the MCLA graduates on the specific court cases that have impacted local land use and commercial development in Montgomery, particularly the Montgomery Road Commercial Corridor. Tracy Roblero, community development director, presented information specific to commercial development trends in Montgomery, including in-fill redevelopment, zoning requirements, and future land use. Finally, the approximately 70 participants provided feedback, generated ideas and participated in a table-top exercise around commercial development and input for the Montgomery Road Commercial Corridor strategy.



The community and information services department facilitated the City's 2016-2021 strategic planning process which was accomplished through the collaboration between City Council and staff from all levels of the organization. An important component of the strategic planning process was gathering



community input from the survey of residents, during the MCLA Reunion Summit and the Community Leadership Forum.

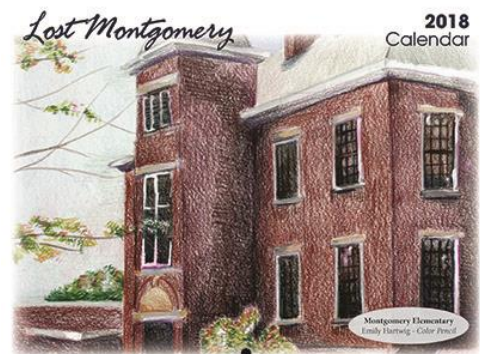
In 2017, the newly-enhanced Service to the Community Grant was awarded to Sycamore Junior High and Honor Flight Tri-State. Every year, around the last Friday of October, students from Sycamore Junior High, with their teachers and parents, provide leaf raking services to local residents as a community service project. In 2017, the City of Montgomery provided grant funds used to assist with this endeavor. Funds were also given to Honor Flight Tri-State to honor five Montgomery residents for their service to their country with a trip to the nation's capital.



The community and information services staff, with participation from members of the police, fire, and community development departments, hosted two Neighborhood Leaders Forums, one in May and a second in November. The May forum addressed traffic management and crime prevention. The November forum was a condensed version of the MCLA 2.0 session focused on providing a strong understanding and awareness of the multiple, critical components involved in economic development and zoning along the Montgomery Road Commercial Corridor. This zoning and economic development forum used much of the same information that was shared at the March MCLA 2.0 session, but was made available to a wider audience.



The department secured a new vendor to publish and print the Montgomery Bulletin and the City Calendar. In 2017, the department partnered with the Montgomery Historical Preservation Association (MHPA) on the annual calendar. Janet Korach of MHPA provided the historical photographs and narratives to accompany the photographs. The Advanced Placement Studio Art class at Sycamore High School used those photographs to create the original art work for the Calendar.



To document the history of Montgomery from 1995 to present day, the City of Montgomery, in collaboration with the [Montgomery Historical Preservation Association](#), created a website, [history.montgomeryohio.org](http://history.montgomeryohio.org), containing photos and audio and video recordings that document significant events, historic landmarks, and recollections from past mayors. The new website is a significant history tool to help educate and inform current and future citizens of Montgomery.

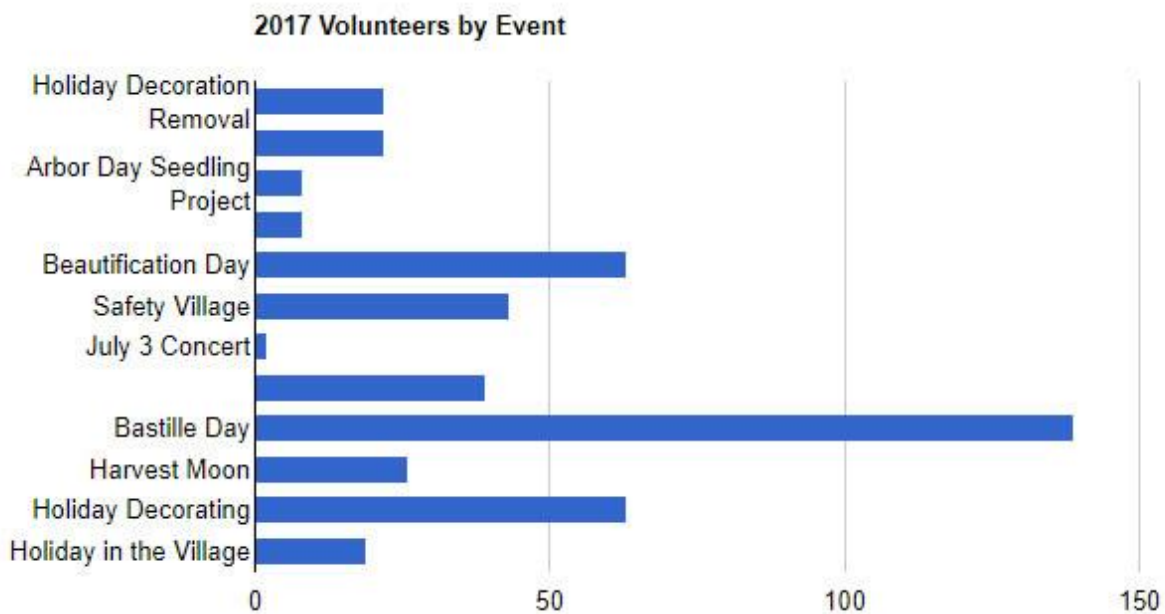
## Customer Service

In 2017, the City switched over to a new recreation program management system called Rec1. The new system provides a centralized dashboard of all recreation programs for residents and easy program management features for staff.

## Information Technology

The network infrastructure at City Hall was updated to ensure reliability and adherence to current standards.

## Volunteerism





In April of 2017, one exceptional volunteer was added to the Volunteer Walk of Fame. This honoree was John Tholking. This brick path, located in Montgomery Park, was created to recognize volunteers who have made substantial contributions to the City through their volunteer service.

## **Internship**

Katie Busch, a Montgomery resident, performed a summer internship with the City of Montgomery. Katie was a sophomore at that time at Liberty University and majored in business management with an interest in public relations. Katie performed research to help advance communications and customer service related implementation steps from the 2016 – 2021 Strategic Plan. Her final research covered ways to provide customer service in a technology-driven world and analyze social media trends and demographics to ensure effective reach and engagement of the local audience.



## Finance



The finance department is responsible for preparing and maintaining the operating and capital budgets, cash management and investments, purchasing, payroll and income tax collections. The finance department consists of two offices, income tax and accounting.

In 2017, Montgomery's operating budget totaled \$24.1 million. In addition to the operating budget, the City's finance department administers a capital budget, with a four-year cash forecast.

In 2017, the finance department continued its participation in the City's performance measurement process. This effort involves the tracking and collection of performance measurement data, which will ultimately be used by the department and the City to benchmark against finance departments in other municipalities.

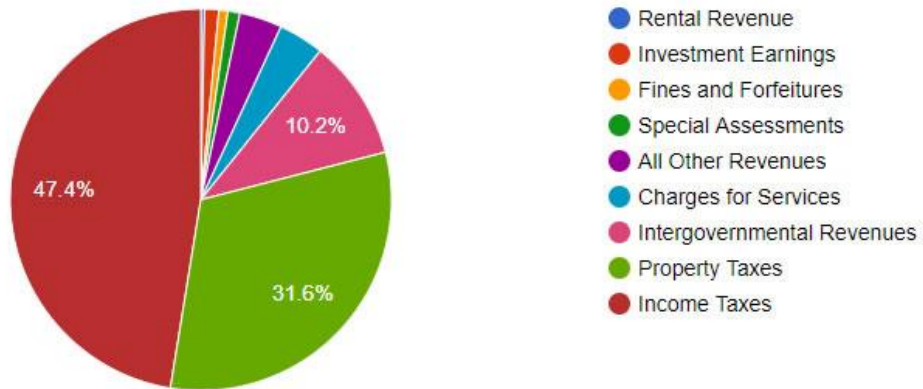
## Revenue and Expenditures

The pie charts below, titled "Where the Money Comes From" and "Where the Money Goes," provides a snapshot of how resources are collected and programmed for expenditures. In 2017, the finance department was responsible for the collection of approximately \$9.2 million in income tax revenues and \$6.1 million in property tax revenues. In addition, the department is responsible for managing an investment portfolio of more than \$23.2 million.

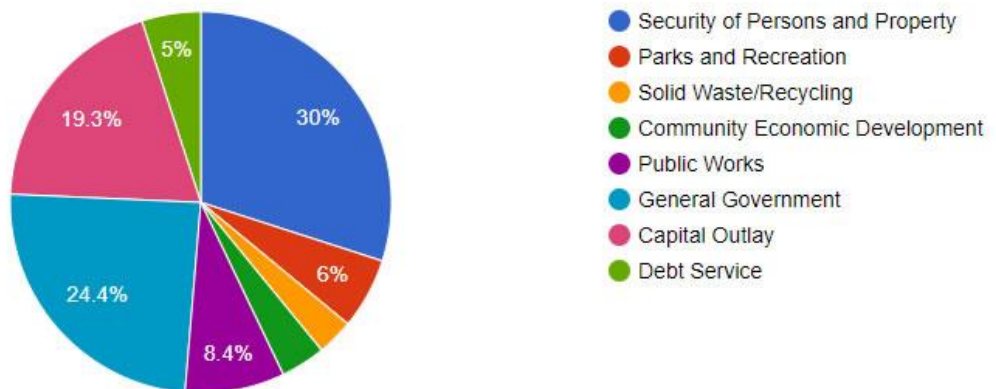
As with most municipalities, public safety, property protection and emergency services are the largest governmental functions. General government and public works, including solid waste and recycling, account for over 36 percent of the remaining expenditures.

The finance department prepares quarterly and annual reports including the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). In 2017, for the twenty-second consecutive year, the City was awarded the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the City's 2016 CAFR. Moody's Investor Services continues to recognize the City's credit worthiness by assigning an Aaa credit rating to our debt. Montgomery is one of only 10 communities in the State of Ohio to be rated in this category.

**2017 Where the Money Comes From**

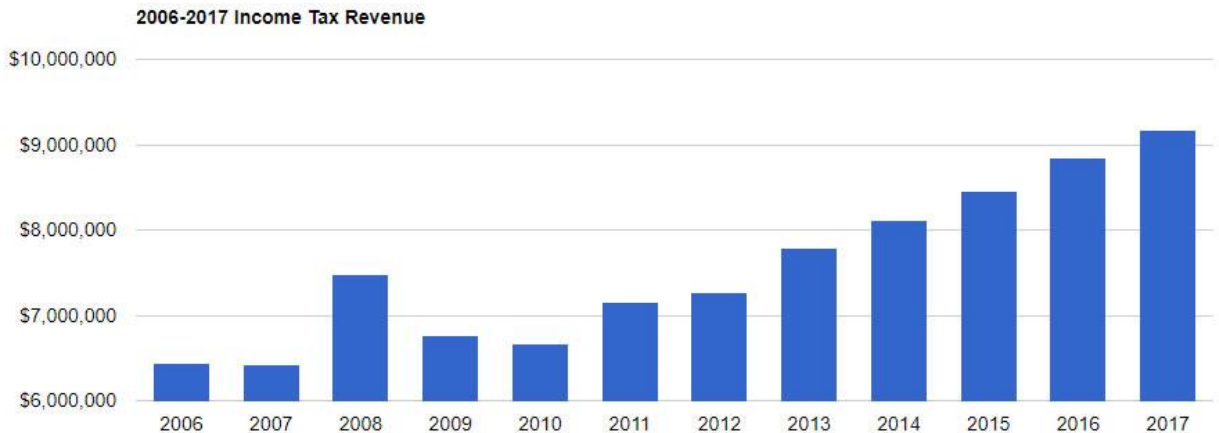


**2017 Where the Money Goes**



# Income Tax Revenue

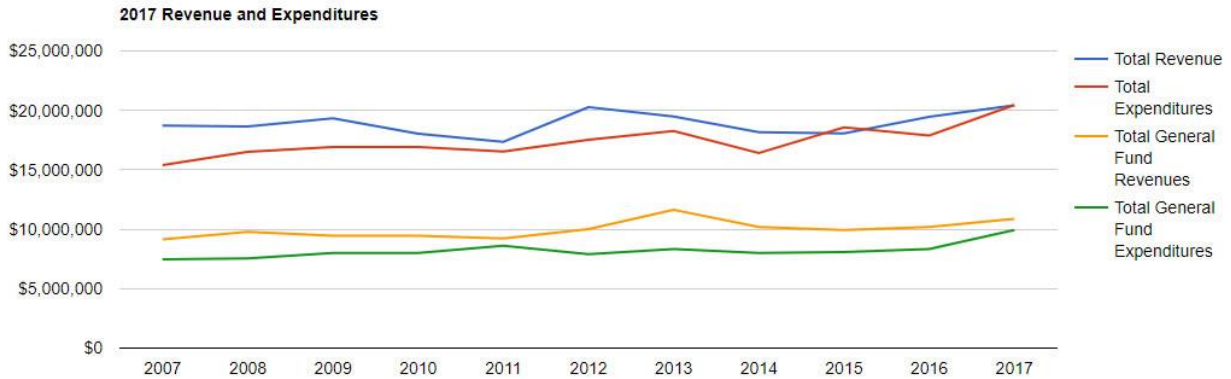
As depicted in the graph, income tax collections rose dramatically in 2008 from 2007, as a result of construction activity with one of the City's major employers; however, in 2009, income tax revenues decreased 10 percent from the amount collected in 2008. Income tax revenues have been increasing each year since the 2009 economic downturn; with 2017 revenues exceeding collections from 2008 by 22.5 percent. For purposes of balancing operations with capital investments and related debt service, income tax revenues are distributed into two funds according to the following allocation: 80 percent to the General Fund and 20 percent to the Capital Improvement Fund.



## Total Revenues and Expenditures

The line chart below represents the total revenues and expenditures including the General Fund from 2007 through 2017 and provides an historical perspective of the City's ability to program and budget services, capital improvements and related debt service within the resources provided through the annual budget process.



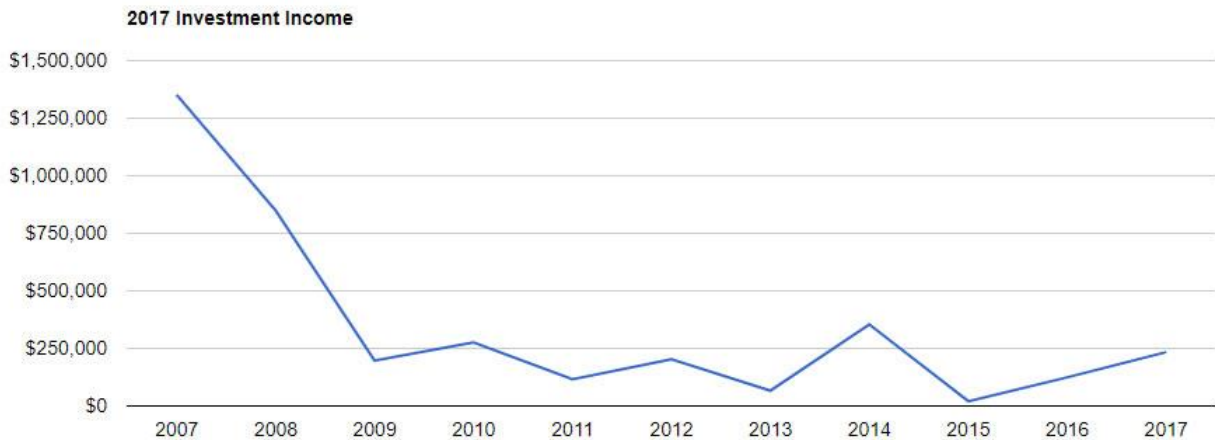


## Sound Financial Policies

In order to maintain a sound fiscal environment, City Council has adopted an array of financial policies:

### *Investment Policy*

The graph titled “Investment Income” reflects revenues which range from \$1,350,943 in 2007 to \$234,005 in 2017. City Council adopted a conservative investment policy which applies to cash management and investment activities of the City of Montgomery. The policy is reviewed periodically and updates are adopted by City Council. The primary objective of the City’s investment activities is the preservation of capital and liquidity, maximizing investment income and conforming to State laws governing the investment of public funds.



## Fund Balance Policy

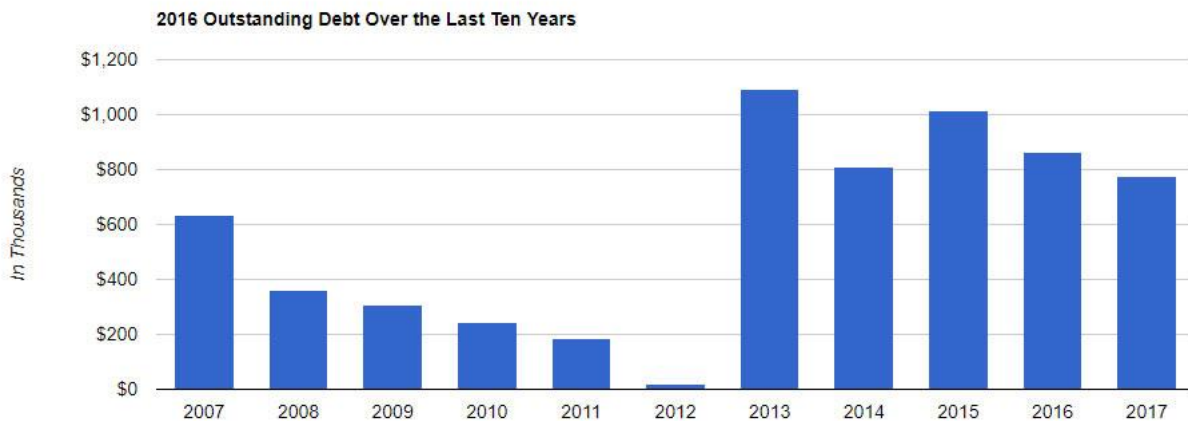
The fund balance is a key measure of the City's overall financial health. City Council adopted a policy requiring maintenance of a six to twelve-month reserve of operating expenditures for both the General Fund and Fire/EMS Levy fund, a minimum cash balance of \$1,000,000 in the Capital Improvement Fund and one year of debt service payments in the General Bond Retirement Fund.

## Debt

On December 31, 2017, the City had \$13,214,750 of bonded debt; of this amount \$12,665,000 is special obligation debt and \$549,750 is special assessment debt.

In May of 2013, the City issued \$13,265,000 of special obligation bonds to finance public improvements which consisted of constructing a roadway and public garage at the commercial/residential development known as the Vintage Club. The repayment of the bonds is secured by payments in lieu of taxes generated within the tax increment financing district which encompasses the entire Vintage Club development. The development includes a high-end housing development, two medical office buildings consisting of 100,000 square feet occupied by the Christ Hospital Health Network and plans for future commercial development in the undeveloped parcels in both the north and south sections.

The chart below depicts the total outstanding debt for the City over the last ten years.



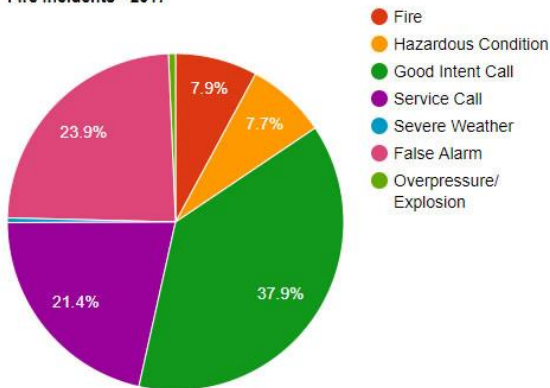
# Fire/EMS



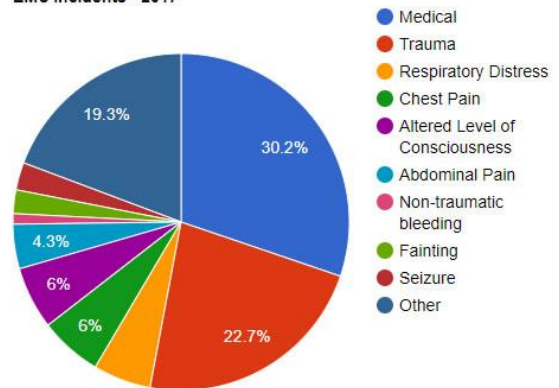
The fire department staffs the fire station with dedicated and professional personnel 24-hours per day. The staff consists of nine full-time firefighter/paramedics, one customer service representative and 35 part-time firefighter/paramedic/emergency medical technicians. The station houses two medic ambulances, one rescue pumper, one fire engine, one Quint fire truck and one support/hydrant maintenance vehicle.

Emergency medical service incidents continued to be one of the priorities of the department and represented 71 percent of the total incident volume. Total loss from fire in the community was \$24,620. The department attributes the low number of fire incidents to fire prevention efforts and the fire inspections conducted by fire safety 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.

Fire Incidents - 2017



EMS Incidents - 2017



## *Insurance Service Office (ISO) Rating*



The department received an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 2 as a result of the review of the department's operations. The ISO rating system uses a scale of 1 to 10 for its rating system. If a community has a score of 10, its residents will pay a much higher premium than a community with a lower score. Current data show there are 43,094 fire departments across the country. In 2017, 305 departments were rated Class 1 and only 1,482 departments were rated as Class 2. The other 41,307 fire departments were a Class 3 or higher resulting in those communities seeing higher insurance costs for their businesses and residents.

## *Fire Department Funding*

A 5.5 mil levy was approved by the community in 1999 to fund the operations of the fire department. The levy was projected to last ten years, or until 2009. Through careful planning and budget controls, the current levy should fund the department through 2018, or nine years beyond the projected life of the levy. The department also receives revenue through the billing of EMS patients who are not property owners in the City.



## *Public Education*

Public education programs are a critical component of a modern fire department as the department strives to prevent injuries and accidents from occurring in the community. The fire department provided tours of the Safety Center, taught CPR classes and coordinated Fire Prevention Week activities. Approximately 38 individual safety programs were offered to 926 participants. The Child Car Seat Safety Program taught 143 citizens how to properly place their children in car seats and properly install the car seats in vehicles. Since the beginning of this program in 1999, the department has instructed over 3,287 individuals in the proper installation of child car seats. Beginning in 2016, the department partnered with the American Red Cross with a program that supplied and installed free photoelectric smoke alarms to residents that either did not have any alarms or whose alarms were outdated. The program also offered a home safety check. To date, 307 smoke alarms have been installed in 111 homes.



## *CERT*

A Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) was organized in 2012 and educated 28 residents on how to handle emergencies in the event they are first on the scene to an emergency in their neighborhood. The CERT members are dedicated to assisting emergency services in responding to significant emergencies that affect the region when local resources are exhausted, but still awaiting regional, state and federal resources. Such large-scale emergencies include tornados, long-term power outages, winter storms and other natural disasters. Additionally, CERT members are responsible for assisting with public education as they work with their neighbors in preparation for disasters and emergencies. In 2017, CERT members also assisted the department with traffic management during the Independence Day Parade and in mock disaster drills.

## *EMS Signpost*

EMS Signpost is a web-based program available to the residents of Montgomery to assist with information that is needed during an EMS emergency. Once a resident registers on the secure website through this link on the City website, <http://www.montgomeryohio.org/pages/register-for-ems-signpost/>, the City's paramedics are able to use a smart phone to quickly, reliably, and securely access the resident's health history to aid in providing emergency care during a 911 response. EMS SignPost is an abbreviated version of a person's health history stored on a personal secure webpage. It includes items such as medications, chronic health conditions, allergies, and doctor's contact information. A special access code to each individual's personal webpage is stored on a refrigerator via a magnetic ID card that the City supplies to the resident free of charge.

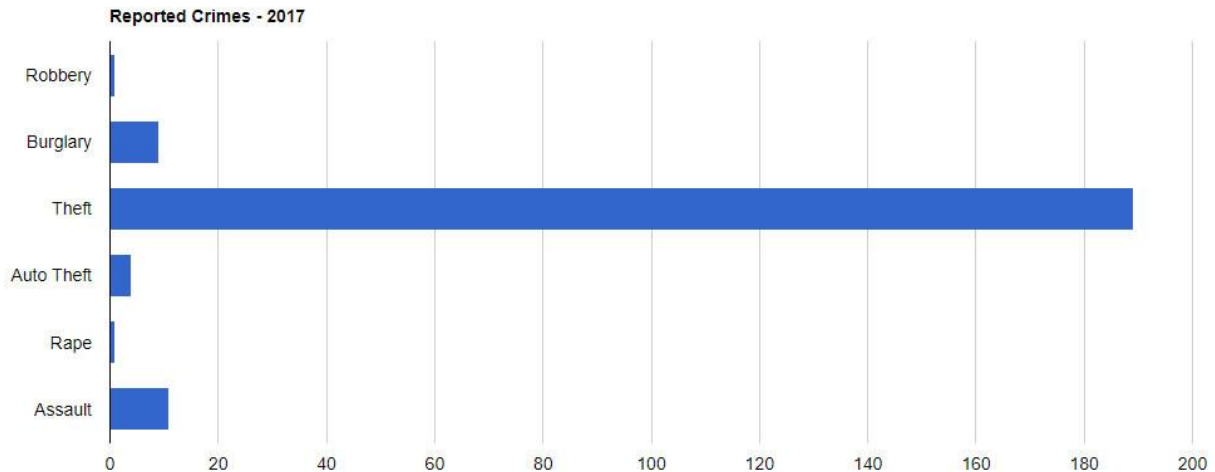
# Police



The police department is responsible for providing safety services to the community including crime prevention and education. The police department is comprised of 22 full-time officers, two full-time customer service representatives and one full-time mayor's court clerk. Of the 22 full-time officers, the police chief leads the department with assistance from one assistant chief (captain), five sergeants, two detectives, one full-time Sycamore High School resource officer (SRO), one part-time junior high resource officer (SRO), one traffic safety officer, and ten patrol officers.

In 2017, officers handled 13,036 incidents, made 346 adult arrests, 57 felony arrests, 48 operating vehicle under the influence arrests, 47 juvenile arrests, 497 auto crash reports, including one fatal auto crash, and issued 1,809 citations, of which 1,597 were heard in Montgomery Mayor's Court and the remaining were heard in Hamilton County Municipal Court.





## *Community Engagement*

In 2017 the police and fire departments hosted a session of the Montgomery Citizens' Leadership Academy at the Safety Center. The event provided community members the opportunity to interact with the public safety personnel and to view facilities and equipment, and participate in the Firearms Training Simulator (FATS) machine. Several class participants experienced the challenge of deciding whether to use deadly force while in several scenarios. The class received very positive reviews and high marks for interaction.



The department maintains an Internet Purchase/Exchange Zone in the Safety Center parking lot for residents to utilize when meeting sellers or buyers. The area is under 24-hour video surveillance and provides a safer area to meet and conduct sales.

The police department continued its public education efforts by conducting the annual Safety Village program for five- and six-year-old children. The program teaches children about school bus safety, animal safety, stranger safety and other safety-related topics. The program is offered over a two-week period in the month of June, and the children attend a morning or afternoon

session for a period of one week (see above photo). Other public education programs included crime prevention, bike safety, internet safety, and addressing neighborhood associations and community groups on a variety of other issues.

In the area of homeland security, the police department assigns an officer as a liaison to the Terrorism Early Warning Group (TEWG). The TEWG is a regional cooperative effort among public safety and health agencies throughout the greater Cincinnati area to address potential terrorist activity. Increased information and resource sharing among local, state and federal law enforcement agencies continue to improve the overall effort of combating terrorism.

The department continued to support the Drug Abuse Reduction Task Force (DART). Montgomery is a founding member of the task force formed in 1988, and periodically assigns officers to the task force. DART is comprised of approximately 14 local law enforcement agencies that primarily address drug enforcement 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 partnership between the police department and Sycamore Community Schools continued in 2017. The school resource officer (SRO) at Sycamore High School and the part-time Sycamore Junior High SRO worked with students and staff to provide a safe and secure learning environment. The SRO positions are funded through a partnership with

Sycamore Community Schools with the district paying 60 percent of the officer's salary. In addition to the day-to-day activities, the SROs attended many extracurricular activities, such as dances, athletic events, and meetings. Officers also presented a seat belt safety program to third graders at Montgomery Elementary School.



From the left to right: George Sturgeon, Sycamore Junior High Assistant Principal, SRO James Martin, Chris Gutermuth, Instructional Technology Facilitator Supervisor, and Tom Villani, Educational Assistant.

## *Mayor's/Juvenile Court*

The Montgomery Mayor's Court 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 2017, the Court heard 1,597 cases involving over-the-legal-limit offenses resulting in \$192,018 in fines, court costs and computer fund charges. After assessing the required State fees, the City's portion of the fund was \$141,594.

The Montgomery Juvenile Court, with Referee Terry Donnellon presiding, heard 17 criminal cases involving 27 juveniles. The disposition of these cases often resulted in community service being performed by the 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.



## *Awards*

The police department received the American Automobile Association's Gold Award. The Gold Award is an award given by the Association to agencies demonstrating outstanding success in addressing community traffic safety issues. The City of Montgomery was one of a few jurisdictions within the greater Cincinnati region to receive the award. In addition, the department remains a founding member of the Hamilton County OVI Task Force for its participation in working within the region to combat driving while intoxicated.



## Public Works



*(Back row left to right) Walter Taylor, Jim Stewart, Assistant Director Gary Heitkamp, Director Brian Riblet, Public Works Supervisor Terry Willenbrink, Jesse Bundy, Robert Dunham, Tony Brothers. (Front row) Sarah Fink, Nick Miller, Mike Roger, Dan Miller, Scott Schulte, Chris Bryant, Justin Liming, and Julie Machon*

The public works department is responsible for the maintenance of buildings and grounds including four landmark buildings, 47.5 center-line miles of public streets, the stormsewer system in the public rights-of-way, City parks, City pool, special events, all recreational events, fleet maintenance and operation of the Hopewell Cemetery. The department oversees the City's beautification efforts throughout the community including in Montgomery's Heritage District. Department staff inspects and administers construction and maintenance of the City's infrastructure through publicly bid contracts as well as through project coordination with other public agencies and utilities. The public works director leads the department with assistance from the assistant director, public works department supervisor, recreation coordinator, recreation specialist, zoning and construction compliance officer, and ten service workers.

## 2017 Accomplishments

The public works staff coordinated the completion of major infrastructure repairs and rehabilitation of approximately 2.48 centerline miles of roadway, resurfacing all or portions of five streets, including Main Street, Cornell Road, Mitchell Farm Lane, Deerfield Road, and Shakerdale Road.

In 2017, the department replaced 24 of the 704 fire hydrants within the city. This work was done in conjunction with the street resurfacing program and was the fourth year of a multi-year comprehensive plan to address the aging fire hydrants in the community.

The department oversaw the crack sealing and “Black Onyx” asphalt surfacing on approximately 3.19 centerline miles of roadway on Monte Drive, Cooperwood Drive, Coopermeadow Drive, Bordeaux Court, Bobwhite Court, Toddtree Lane, Wimbledon Court, Hartford Hills Lane, Winthrop Drive, Brattle Court, Bromwell Lane, Moshill Lane, Stockbridge Lane, and Yorkway Court. The Black Onyx surfacing material is used primarily on residential roadways within Montgomery, and complements the crack-sealing program.

The public works department continued work in 2017 on a five-year plan to repair and replace identified sections of guardrail to assure compliance with safety standards set forth by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). In 2017, approximately 400 feet of guardrail replacement was programmed for East Kemper Road between Terwilligers Run Drive and Hightower Court and 590 feet on the west and east sides of Montgomery Road at Sycamore Creek. The installation of this guardrail was delayed to spring of 2018 due to the ongoing construction of the sidewalk and pedestrian bridge.





In 2017, the City was again recognized with a Tree City USA Award for the twenty-first year and also a Tree City USA Growth Award for the eighteenth year for its ongoing commitment and action focused on environmental stewardship through care of public trees in the City's urban forest.

Also in 2017, the Public Works Department accepted a national award in 2017 from the American Public Works Association for its winter operations. The *Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award* was received at the APWA's North American Snow Conference in Des Moines, Iowa, and was the department was recognized for the improvements made in 2016-2017 to expand the City's salt storage facility, increase and diversify the treatment liquids, and its environmental stewardship.



### ***Public Works Facility Addition and Renovation***

Perkins Carmack completed the public works facility addition and renovation project in 2017. The project consisted of adding 3,500 square feet of bay area and 1,050 square feet of office area to the existing building. The previous office area and break room were renovated into a locker room and larger break room. The new office area now includes four office spaces, a meeting room, and a common work area. Also, a fire sprinkler system was installed for the entire building along with a new water service branch increasing the building's water capacity. A new natural gas generator was also installed to meet the demands of the larger building. This needed expansion and renovation will allow the public works department to continue to provide excellent service to the residents and businesses of Montgomery. The cost for the project was \$1,000,000 and was funded out of the general fund.



## ***Montgomery Road Sidewalk Project (Weller Road to Bethesda North Hospital)***

The Montgomery Road Sidewalk Project (HAM-22/3-15.35) was completed by Tri-State Concrete Construction Company. The project consisted of installing a new 6.5 foot wide concrete sidewalk on the east side of Montgomery Road from Weller Road to the main entrance of Bethesda North Hospital, a distance of 2,800 feet. Approximately 450 feet of the sidewalk required an extensive segmental block retaining wall to be constructed at the north end of the project. The sidewalk crosses Sycamore Creek. A 72-foot long pedestrian bridge was constructed, which was very similar to the existing pedestrian bridge on the west side of Montgomery Road, at this same location. Wood railing was installed on either side of the bridge and in adjacent areas to the bridge for safety purposes, which also provides nice aesthetics.



The total project cost was \$580,000, of which 80 percent, or \$464,000, was grant funded by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) with Transportation Alternative funds awarded through the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Council of Governments (OKI).

## ***Ross Avenue Sidewalk and Storm Drainage Project***

This project consisted of both sidewalk and storm drainage improvements to Ross Avenue between Remington Road and Campus Lane, a distance of 970 feet. The 5-foot wide sidewalk, along with a new high-back curb, was installed on the east side of the road, meeting Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) criteria. Driveway aprons were removed and replaced at each driveway crossing to meet these criteria. The sidewalk was much needed, based on the amount of pedestrian traffic on Ross Avenue, mainly due to the proximity to Montgomery Elementary. Another large component of the project was improvements to the storm



drainage system. The curb installed helps keep stormwater runoff on the roadway instead of it running off and contributing to drainage issues experienced by properties on the east side of the road, including residences on West Street. New catch basins and storm sewer drainage were installed at various locations to replace the older and insufficient system and to help address drainage issues that had been experienced on the roadway and numerous properties on Ross Avenue. The project was successful at meeting both objectives of providing a safe sidewalk for pedestrians while also improving the public storm drainage system.

The total project cost was \$235,000 and was funded out of the general fund.

### ***Jolain Storm Drainage Project***

The Jolain Drive storm drainage project brought remedy to a storm drainage issue that the City and the residents of Jolain Drive have been contending with for decades. The project involved replacing an aged and undersized 12-inch diameter storm sewer with a dual 24-inch diameter pipe system. The project involved coordination with seven property owners, who reached agreement with the City to provide the necessary access and easements, as well as sharing the cost of the dual system. The project consisted of installing 1,240 feet of 24-inch diameter pipe, five catch basins and two new large concrete headwalls. This system upgrade increased the pipe capacity by at least a factor of 8.

The total project cost was \$172,000 and was funded by a combination of the general fund and contributions from the seven property owners.

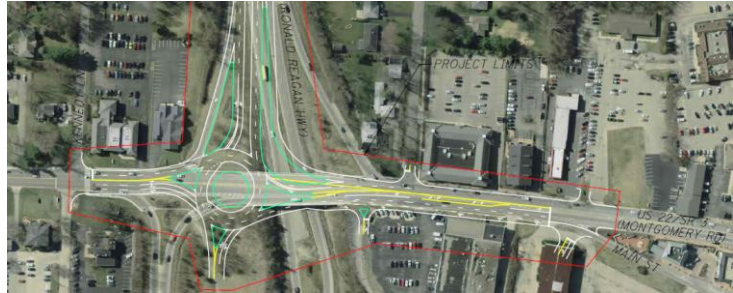
### ***Securing Grant Funds***

OKI approved and awarded funding for a Surface Transportation Program (STP) grant application submitted by the City for an Interchange Modification Project at Montgomery Road and Ronald Reagan Cross County Highway. The project includes construction of a modified two-lane roundabout, the installation of a traffic signal in and around the interchange, and would also include demolition of the existing bridge at this location. The project will have a safe and positive impact on traffic while opening up more land for redevelopment. The OKI grant of \$6,000,000 represents approximately 70 percent of the total estimated construction cost of \$8,600,000, and the project is currently programmed in the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) fiscal year 2020.





Also, OKI approved and awarded funding for a Transportation Alternative (TA) grant application submitted by the City for the Phase II Montgomery Road Sidewalk project. The project includes construction of a concrete sidewalk on the east side of Montgomery Road from Radabaugh Drive to the southern limits of the Safety Center property at 10150 Montgomery Road. The OKI grant of \$386,680 represents 80 percent of the total estimated construction cost of \$483,350, and the project is currently programmed in the ODOT fiscal year 2021.



### ***Recreation and Events***

After the Annex renovations in 2015 and continued improvements to class offerings and equipment in 2016 and 2017, the City's fitness programming continued to see growth in 2017.

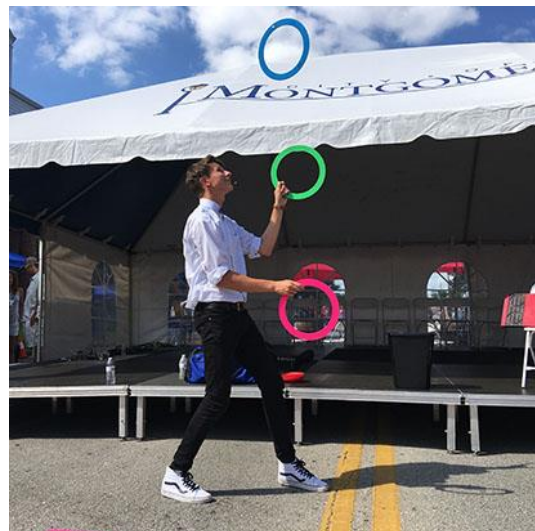
Recreation offered a variety of fitness classes throughout the week at the Recreation Annex Building. These classes included Beginner and Mixed Level Yoga classes, Chair Yoga Classes, Tai Chi, Pilates, and 20/20/20. In 2017, there were 696 enrolled participants as compared to 668 participants in 2016 and 247 in 2015. The Annex Building renovation and the addition of new classes and equipment provided the community with an environment that motivates the community to engage in healthy activities.



Attendance continues to increase at the Montgomery Community Pool with much of the success due to the addition of the pool heater in 2014. In the past five years, attendance averaged 20,242; in 2017, there were 27,424 check-in's which is 4,354 more visits as compared to 2016. In the past five years, memberships averaged 665; in 2017, there were 736 memberships sold which is 52 more memberships as compared to 2016. The luau parties, dive-in movies and Fun Tuesday programs continue to be favorites for pool members. Approximately, 225 kids learned the lifelong skill of swimming by participating in swim lessons, and 135 swimmers were a part of the Makos Swim Team.



Americana-themed special events help make Montgomery unique and provide memorable experiences. These events include the annual Independence Day activities with the July 3 Blue Ash Montgomery Symphony Orchestra concert and the traditional July 4 Parade and Festival. Other events include Bastille Day, Touch-a-Truck, Dog Fest & K-9 Kerplunk, Montgomery Car Show, Harvest Moon, and the tree lighting and Holiday in the Village event.



The City's youth programming helped keep kids active and engaged during the summer and School's Out Days. Seven weeks of camps were planned and implemented in 2017, including theater camp, technology camps, tennis for Pee Wees and juniors, and art and sports camps. In 2017, 259 children participated in these camps, which is an increase of 71 participants as compared to 2016. Participants in camps ranged from preschool age to high school. The Department also offered School's Out Days, including the annual Paintball trip in October.