

# 2018 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 2018. 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 2018.

### 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 4,000 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!**

## Administration



*Back Row, left to right: Julie Prickett, Brian Riblet, Matthew Vanderhorst  
Middle Row, l to r: Sarah Fink, Cindy Abner, Taryn Radford, Kathy Ranford, DeAnna Gross, Tracy Roblero  
Front Row, l to r: Katie Smiddy, Evelyn Dumont, Faith Lynch, Melissa Hays, Connie Gaylor, Sharon Savitt, Julie Machon*

The year 2018 marked the first year for City Manager Brian Riblet. The city manager and the human resources manager comprise the administration department. 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 oversees the coordination and direction of all City services daily, provides direct support to Montgomery City Council, and serves as a liaison between the City of Montgomery and other organizations.

## Branding and Imaging Campaign

In 2018, the City of Montgomery embarked on a branding project called “Distinctly Montgomery” to position the entire community as a desirable destination for locating a business, a



family, or to visit today, and into the future. The first phase of the branding consisted of information gathering through the use of interviews with City Council Members and staff. The City and its branding partners gathered feedback from the entire community through online surveys and MCLA 2.0. The second phase of the branding campaign started in 2019.

## 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.

The Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) awarded the City a \$600,000 grant to support the roundabout project at the interchange of Montgomery Road and Ronald Reagan Cross County Highway. This grant brings our total commitment from OKI to \$6,600,000 for the project scheduled for 2020.

A grant for \$4,000 was approved through the Duke Energy Foundation to support upcoming programs and activities of our Diversity & Inclusion Committee in 2019. The City of Montgomery is grateful to Duke Energy and their contribution to support our efforts.

The Fire Department was successful in receiving a grant for \$3,575 from the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Medical Services, for the grant cycle of 2018 – 2019 award year. The grant was requested to cover the cost of a Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) certification class for the department's paramedics as well as to purchase some EMS supplies for the ambulances.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) awarded the City with a Capital Improvement award through HB529 for \$250,000. These funds will be utilized to assist with the construction of a public park/gathering spot within the GRA site.

The Hamilton County Transportation Improvement District (TID) awarded the City of Montgomery with the second round of Ohio Department of Transportation TID funding for \$250,000 for continued work on the roundabout project.



# Diversity and Inclusion Committee

In 2018 the City launched a community-wide initiative to celebrate the values and benefits of the city's increasing cultural diversity. The City Council and administration created the Diversity and Inclusion Committee with a vision to:

1. promote positive intercultural relations among Montgomery's residents, and
2. embed its multi-cultural character into Montgomery's brand as a welcoming community for all people.

The committee is under the direction of the City Manager in collaboration with City Council, Chip Harrod of Harrod and Associates, and also a resident of Montgomery, City staff, and several community members.

The Committee had a very productive 2018 with the following accomplishments:

- Held 11 meetings.
- Created the #IamMontgomery campaign, including a video, 400 buttons, 200-yard signs, t-shirts.
- Completed a cultural review of the city's social media sites.
- Member Umama Alam presented "Understanding Islam and Muslims" at the May meeting.



- Represented at the Farmers Market with our members in a booth at the market.
- Represented in the July 4 Parade with members in a parade unit.
- Represented at the July 4 Festival with members in a booth at the Festival.



- Assisted with the recruitment for the Montgomery Citizens' Leadership Academy of 2019.
- Member Alfonso Cornejo presented "Hispanics in Ohio and Cincinnati MSA" at the July meeting.
- Member Sasha Naiman presented, "Rebuilding Lives: how people with criminal records reintegrate into the community" at the August meeting.
- Hosted a Dinner Party in Montgomery Park in October with 40 registered and 50 attending the dinner.
- Sycamore Schools team Frank Forsthoefel, Karen Naber, and Emily Williams, the Supervisor of English as a Second Language, presented "Valuing Diversity" at the October meeting.
- Jamahal Boyd of Tri-Health presented on "Diversity and Inclusion: The Strategy" at the November meeting.
- Shane DiGiovanna presented about turning adversity into opportunity at the December meeting.
- Profiled Member Chris Burns in the December Bulletin.
- Structured diversity and inclusion into the curriculum of future Montgomery Citizens' Leadership Academy classes.
- Provided information to the 2019 City Calendar about our Committee and advising on the diverse holidays' page in the calendar.
- Created a two-year strategic work plan.



## 2016-2021 Strategic Plan

City Council and City staff use strategic planning to set long-term goals, which provide purposeful guidance and direction for the activities of the organization. Over the past 20 years, the City has undertaken strategic planning in five-year increments, and, in 2017, the City was in the first year of its current five-year strategic plan.

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 historical 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 most efficiently and effectively.

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

- Updated current succession plans based on organizational changes implemented in 2013 (2011-2016 Strategic Plan, Goal 3) to ensure staff members are in positions of leadership.
- Conducted a review of City documents and identified other factors to evaluate compatibility with the City's service delivery model and operating environment.
- Analyzed the communication preferences of different demographic groups to ensure information is disseminated to meet the widest audience.
- Implement chronic disease objectives from the WeThrive! Community Action Plan and other wellness and well-being initiatives focused on improving health and welfare for a premier community.
- Establish debt policy (G.O. debt per capita, uses, percent of revenues, etc.)
- Develop a finance technology plan to improve productivity and enable timely decision-making.



## Sister Cities Exchanges

City Manager Brian Riblet and Police Chief John Crowell visited the Village of Montgomery, New York, in support of the sister cities relationship created some years ago.

Many original Montgomery, Ohio settlers came from the Village of Montgomery, New York. City Manager Brian Riblet and Police Chief John Crowell participated in the General Montgomery Day Parade on September 8, 2018, 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 that 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), and Sycamore and Symmes Townships 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 a 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 2018, 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**, city manager, is a member of the Cincinnati Area Manager's Association (CAMA); Ohio City/County Management Association (OCMA); International City/County Management Association (ICMA); Rotary Club of Northeast Cincinnati; and Past President – Public Works Officials of Southwest Ohio (PWOSO);
- **John Crowell**, police chief, is the assistant commander of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team in Hamilton County; Secretary for the Hamilton County Association of Chiefs of Police and Chair for the Great Oaks Police Academy Advisory Board;
- **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 an Alliance for Innovation Advancing New Leader working group and is a member of the National Association of Government Web Professionals;
- **Paul Wright**, fire chief, is a past president of the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association, the chairman of the Ohio Fire and Emergency Services Foundation, the State of Ohio representative to the Great Lake's Division of the International Fire Chiefs' Association, and serves on the Cincinnati State College Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board, the Hamilton County BioWatch Committee, the chairman of the Marketing Committee of the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association, 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 and clerk of council, is a member of the Ohio Municipal Clerks Association and serves as a member of their Professional Development Committee;
- **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, holds a Professional Engineering license with the State of Ohio, a Certified Floodplain Manager through the Association of State Floodplain Managers, and a member of 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**, APR, communications and engagement coordinator, is a member of the Public Relations Society of America-Cincinnati Chapter and served on its Blacksmith Awards Committee;
- **Terry Willenbrink**, assistant public works director, is a Certified Arborist through the International Society of Arboriculture and holds a chemical license through the State of Ohio Department of Agriculture.

## Achievements

The City of Montgomery was recognized for several achievements in 2018.

- The City was rated as the #1 Top Community in which to live, according to Cincy Magazine. This edition is the 12th year for this annual "Rating of the Burbs" in which

communities are rated based on the criteria of Safety, Education, Housing, and other attributes like property taxes and average commute to work.

- 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, 2017. This award 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 2018 represents the 23<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year the City has received this award.
- The Miami Valley Risk Management Association (MVRMA) completed the 2016/2017 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 Southwest Ohio Branch of the American Public Works Association presented the APWA 2017 Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award to the public works department.
- The Greater Cincinnati Safety Council awarded the City with a Certificate of Achievement for achieving a 25 percent or better decrease in the number and or severity of work-related injuries during the calendar year 2017 (as compared to the calendar year 2016 work-related injuries.) The Greater Cincinnati Safety Council is sponsored by the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation as part of its overall employer education program designed to encourage safe workplace practices and decrease job-related injuries.
- The City of Montgomery was named one of the Healthiest Employers of Greater Cincinnati finalist.
- The City was recognized by the Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District for the Best City Recycling Rate in Hamilton County for the year 2017. The City reached a 24.8 percent recycling rate in 2017, and these efforts conserved enough energy to power every home in Montgomery for 21 days.
- 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.

## City Council



## 2018 Elected Officials

Lee Ann Bissmeyer  
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.

Several initiatives are undertaken each year to maintain communications between City Council and the boards, commissions and civic organizations, 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 in 2018.



On July 25, 2018, Montgomery City Council and staff dedicated the newly renovated Public Works building expansion, which included additional storage, offices, a larger break room, restrooms and locker space.



Mayor Chris Dobrozsi presented Matula Gregory of the Montgomery Inn a Mayoral Proclamation for her 90th Birthday.

## 2018 Council Action

- An Ordinance to Amend the City Income Tax Code to Adopt Sections 718.80 Through 718.95 of The Ohio Revised Code and Declaring an Emergency
- An Ordinance to Amend the City Income Tax Code to Adopt Sections 718.80 Through 718.95 Of the Ohio Revised Code and Declaring an Emergency
- 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, 2018
- An Ordinance Dedicating Real property on Montgomery Road at the Safety Center for Public Use
- An Ordinance Authorizing The Issuance Of Not To Exceed \$5,700,000 Special Obligation Revenue Bonds Of The City Of Montgomery; Providing For The Pledge Of Revenues For The Payment Of Such Bonds; Authorizing A Trust Agreement Appropriate For The



Protection And Disposition Of Such Revenues And To Further Secure Such Bonds;  
Authorizing An Official Statement; Authorizing Other Necessary And Appropriate  
Documents; And Authorizing Other Actions In Connection With The Issuance Of Such  
Bonds And Declaring An Emergency

- An Ordinance Establishing the Schedule of Municipal Compensation for Employees
- An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 5-2018 to Provide for the Issuance of Bonds in Denominations of \$5,000 and Integral Multiples Thereof and Declaring an Emergency
- An Ordinance Enacting New Section 150.0205, Medical Marijuana, Of the City of Montgomery Zoning Code
- An Ordinance Amending the Land Usage Code to Enact New Regulations for The Old Montgomery Gateway District
- An Ordinance Amending Chapter 151.30 Of the Code of Ordinances Regulating Signs
- 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, 2018
- An Ordinance Rezoning a Portion of Montgomery Road North of Hopewell Road to the Residential C Single- and Two-Family District with a Planned Development Overlay
- An Ordinance Establishing Regulations for Small Cell Facilities and Wireless Support Structures within the Right-Of-Way
- An Ordinance Rezoning A Portion of Land Along Montgomery Road North of Hopewell Road to Sterling Point Drive and From Deerfield Road North to Pfeiffer Road to The Residential C Single and Two-Family District
- An Ordinance Creating the GRA Tax Increment Financing Fund
- An Ordinance Establishing the GRA Capital Construction Fund for Public Improvements in the Gateway Redevelopment Area
- An Ordinance Establishing A Gateway Redevelopment Area Capital Construction Fund for The Interchange Modification Project
- An Ordinance Creating the Vintage Club North Tax Increment Financing Fund
- 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, 2019
- 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, 2018

- A Resolution Authorizing the Interim City Manager to Enter into A Contract with CT Consultants, Inc. For Professional Services Related to General Engineering and Architectural Services for Calendar Year 2018
- A Resolution Authorizing the Interim City Manager to Reaffirm the City's Contract with National Inspection Corporation for Professional Services to Serve as Building Official and To Provide Plan Review and Field Inspection Authority and Services for The City's Building Department for the Calendar Year 2018
- A Resolution Providing for The Submission to The Electorate of An Additional 6.0 Mill Property Tax Levy for The Support and Maintenance of Fire and Emergency Medical Services in The Municipality
- A Resolution Appointing Brian K. Riblet As City Manager and Authorizing A Contract for Employment
- A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate A Modified Service Agreement Governing the Vintage Club-North Project
- A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Rush Truck Centers of Ohio, Inc. for the Purchase of a 2018 7300 SA615 International Five Ton Dump Truck
- A Resolution Approving a Contract for Employment for Brian K. Riblet, City Manager
- A Resolution Accepting a Bid and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Strawser Construction, Inc. for the 2017 Onyx Mastic Surface (Black Onyx) Project through the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Cooperative Purchasing Program Contract #101L-19
- A Resolution Accepting a Bid and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with John R. Jurgensen Company for the 2018 Street Resurfacing Program
- A Resolution Recognizing the Month of May 2018 as National Historic Preservation Month in the City of Montgomery
- A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Contract with Frost Brown Todd, LLC to Provide Special Counsel Services
- A Resolution Authorizing a Design-Build Construction Contract with Traditions VC Developer, LLC for the Vintage Club-North Site
- A Resolution Adopting A Tax Budget For 2019
- A Resolution Authorizing A Purchase Agreement with Traditions Development Group, LLC to Acquire Certain Real Property Rights within The Vintage Club Development

- A Resolution Authorizing an Easement Agreement with Traditions VC North, LLC
- A Resolution Establishing City Contributions to Employee Health Savings Accounts
- A Resolution Authorizing Internet Auction of Surplus Personal Property Through GovDeals.com
- A Resolution to Adopt Recommendation of the Montgomery Tax Incentive Review Council with Respect to the Compliance of all Tax Increment Financing Districts within the City of Montgomery
- 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 Establishing City Contributions for Healthcare Benefits
- A Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Auditor
- A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Cargill, Inc. for the Purchase of De-Icing Rock Salt for the 2018-2019 Season
- A Resolution Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and the Hamilton County Transportation Improvement District
- A Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Dayton Mailing Services, Inc. D/B/A DMS Ink for Design and Production Services
- A Resolution Encouraging Expanded Participation in the WeTHRIVE! Initiative
- A Resolution Adopting the Hamilton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan
- A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Prepare and Apply to Participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) State Capital Improvement And/or Local Transportation Improvement Programs(s) and to Execute Contracts as Required
- A Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Creative Microsystems, Inc. for Software Acquisition and Support Services
- A Resolution Authorizing an Easement Agreement with Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.
- A Resolution Expressing Concern for the State of Ohio to Strengthen Requirements for Siting Natural Gas Pipelines
- A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Labor Agreement with the Montgomery Firefighters IAFF Local 4391 for Wages and Benefits from April 1, 2018 Through March 31, 2021
- A Resolution Adopting a Five-Year Capital Improvement Program for the City of Montgomery

- A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with SwimSafe Pool Management, Inc. for Professional Services Related to the Operation and Management of the Montgomery Municipal Pool
- A Resolution Authorizing A Purchase Agreement with Traditions VC Developer, LLC To Acquire Certain Real Property Within the Vintage Club Development
- A Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to The Current Contract with Donnellon, Donnellon & Miller for Legal Services to The City of Montgomery

# Community Development



## Community Development Department

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. The department benefited from 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, engineering, electrical and plumbing plan review and inspections with outside agencies. In addition to issuing building permits, 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, the Landmarks Commission, and the Board of Zoning Appeals.

# Development Activity

## Vintage Club

The Planning Commission approved a Final Development Plan for Phase 7 of the Vintage Club in May of 2018. The approval was for the public improvements in the village section as well as two of the condominium buildings, which will be known as The Wicks at the Vintage Club.

Phase 8 of the development was approved in December of 2018 and included the site work for Buildings A and B along Montgomery Road as well as the building architecture for Building B, which will be the future home of GE Credit Union. The City originally approved the establishment of the Vintage Club Planned Development in 2006 for approximately 68 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 to meet the expectations of the City and the residents of the Vintage Club while working with the current market conditions. In many ways, the development is very similar to the original proposal in 2006 and the final product will be an attractive mixed-use development with retail, office, restaurants, and condominiums that will complement the existing homes at the Vintage Club and The Christ Hospital Health Network medical office building. City staff will continue to work with the developer in 2019 to bring this project to fruition.



## Gateway Redevelopment Area

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 urban-suburban lifestyle blend 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 the 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.



Proposed Montgomery Quarter Rendering. Looking northeast on Street A.

## Twin Lakes Senior Living Community

Twin Lakes Senior Living Community completed work on a building addition to the main campus, 9840 Montgomery Road, in 2018. The addition includes 45 new independent living apartments and a new club-like dining venue located adjacent to a new auditorium/community room.

Twin Lakes added additional retail along Montgomery Road with Stone Creek Dining Company opening at the new location in January of 2018. The building is now fully occupied, with Toast and Berry and Athletico filling out the tenant mix.

Twin Lakes also began construction of 22 new villa homes just south of the Safety Center on Montgomery Road. With access from Arborcreek Lane off of Hopewell Road, these villa homes are an extension of Twin Lakes North Campus.

## The Thomas Comprehensive Care Center

The Planning Commission approved a Final Development Site Plan in March of 2018 to allow TriHealth to construct 135,000 square foot medical office building and associated parking garage on the Bethesda North Campus.

The Thomas Comprehensive Care Center will create a patient-centered, multi-disciplinary approach to comprehensive care and consolidate outpatient care services of the TriHealth Cancer Institute, TriHealth Heart Institute, the Mary Jo Cropper Family Center for Breast Care, and TriHealth Imaging departments.

TriHealth demolished the existing building at 10498 Montgomery Road to construct a new structured parking deck that will service the existing hospital and the new building. The plans call for additional parking and landscaping with architecture that is complementary to the existing buildings on the Hospital Campus to provide for a welcoming experience for patients and visitors. Work on this exciting project began in May of 2018 and will allow TriHealth to continue to meet the needs of their residents today and for years to come.





## Villas of Montgomery

The Planning Commission approved a Final Development Site Plan in October of 2018 to allow Robert Lucke Group to construct 12 new villa homes along Montgomery Road north of the Safety Center.

The existing single-family homes have been demolished to make way for The Villas of Montgomery, which will include six new single-family attached dwellings and open space. Drivers may access this latest development by a private drive which will be right-in/right-out.

The plans call for the addition of a sidewalk along Montgomery Road and well-designed new buildings with landscaping along Montgomery Road and throughout the site.



## Orchard Trail

Work continued on the Orchard Trail subdivisions, and six building permits have been issued for the development. 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 received approval for the development; however, Daley Design Build took over the project in 2018. The new subdivision will feature high-end, empty-nester type housing with a pocket park and a walking trail.



## Community and Information Services



The MCLA Alumni gathered for the third annual MCLA 2.0 on November 21 at Montgomery Inn. MCLA graduates were invited to this workshop to review the rebranding survey responses from the community and to provide additional feedback about the future brand of the City of Montgomery.

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 service, 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 eleventh year of offering the Montgomery Citizens' Leadership Academy (MCLA), which continued to be a popular activity for some of our most engaged citizens. Approximately 27 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.

The MCLA Alumni gathered for the third annual MCLA 2.0 on November 21 at Montgomery Inn. MCLA graduates were invited to this workshop to review the rebranding survey responses from the community and to provide additional feedback about the future brand of the City of Montgomery. The attendees participated in a Pitchbox session facilitated by Kolar Design that focused on the visual aspects of Montgomery's brand.

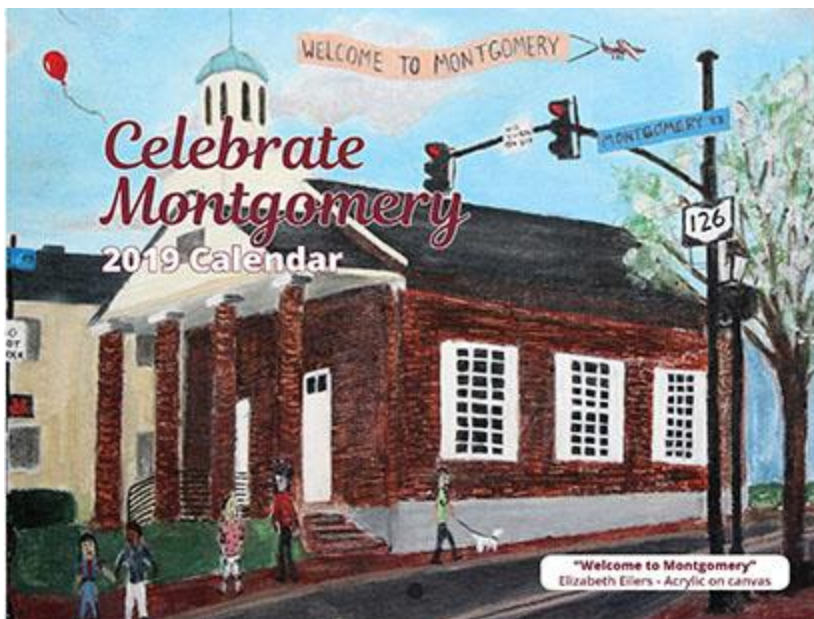


In 2018, the Service to the Community Grant was awarded to Sycamore Junior High and Operation Give Back. Every year, around the last Friday of October, students from Sycamore Junior High, with their teachers and parents, provide leaf raking services to residents as a community service project. In 2018, the City of Montgomery provided grant funds used to assist with this endeavor. The City-funded Operation Give Back's proposed WeTHRIVE! Food Bundle project benefiting 50 Montgomery residents. The WeTHRIVE! Food Bundles contained fresh fruit, fresh produce, and healthy snacks. Recipients also received, cooking recipe cards and healthy eating fact sheets. Operation Give Back also included a walking pedometer with the August bundle with information on the six local parks and the City's WeTHRIVE! Initiative on Chronic Disease Pathway.

The community and information services staff, with participation from the police and community development departments, hosted a Neighborhood Leaders Forum on October 23 about safe driving, the status of development projects, and updates to the branding campaign.



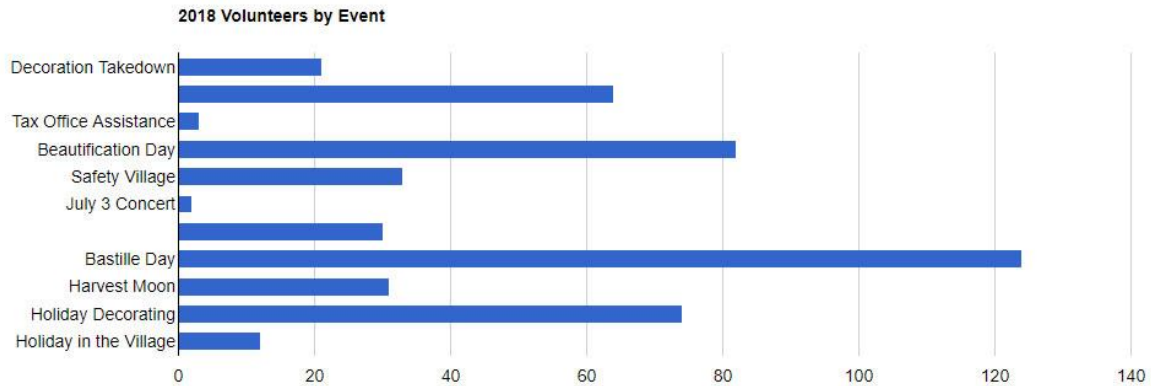
Police Officer Scott Bierer and Sergeant Mike Plaatje gave a presentation about safe driving tips and recent changes in traffic laws in the State of Ohio. Community Development Director Tracy Roblero shared information about commercial development projects in Montgomery, including Vintage Club North, Gateway Redevelopment Area, and new businesses. Finally, Faith Lynch provided an update on the Distinctly Montgomery branding and imaging campaign project.



In 2018, the department partnered with the Advanced Placement Studio Art Class at Sycamore High School to create the 2019 City calendar. The theme for the 2019 calendar was “Celebrate Montgomery,” drawing attention to Montgomery’s many special and unique events and opportunities to engage with other members of the community.

## Volunteerism

In April 2018, the City inducted four exceptional volunteers, Gary Blomberg, Greg Leader, Rosalee Ritchie, and Carol Suer, into the Volunteer Walk of Fame. This brick path, located in Montgomery Park, was created to recognize volunteers who have made substantial contributions to the City through their volunteer service.



## Information Technology

The network infrastructure at City Hall was reconfigured to increase reliability in the event of a power outage. Also, unused traffic signal fiber was configured to add a redundant route for network data to improve reliability. The City completed the first part of this project in 2018. Project completion is anticipated for 2019.

## Customer Service

In 2018, the City implemented a new online engagement tool called HelpScout. HelpScout provides an interactive chat function, along with traditional website forms. The program provides educational tools for staff to quickly and accurately manage requests.

## 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 2018, Montgomery's operating budget totaled \$21.4 million. In addition to the operating budget, the City's finance department administers a capital budget, with a four-year cash forecast.

In 2018, 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.

### Revenues and Expenditures

The charts titled "Where the Money Comes From" and "Where the Money Goes" provides a snapshot of how resources are collected and programmed for expenditures. In 2018, the finance department was responsible for the collection of approximately \$9.5 million in income tax revenues and \$6.2 million in property tax revenues. Also, the department is responsible for managing an investment portfolio of more than \$22.4 million.

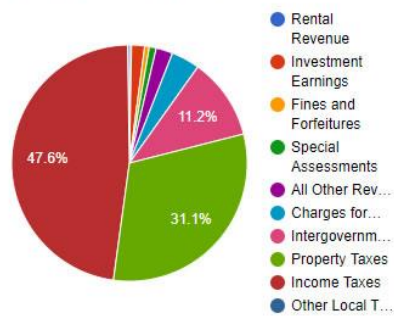
As with most municipalities, public safety, property protection, and emergency services are the most important governmental functions. General government and public works, including solid waste and recycling, account for over 29 percent of the remaining expenditures.

The finance department prepares quarterly and annual reports, including the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). In 2018, for the twenty-third consecutive year, the City was awarded the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the City's 2017 CAFR. Moody's Investor Services continues to recognize the City's creditworthiness by assigning an Aaa credit rating to our debt. Montgomery is one of only ten communities in the State of Ohio to be rated in this category.

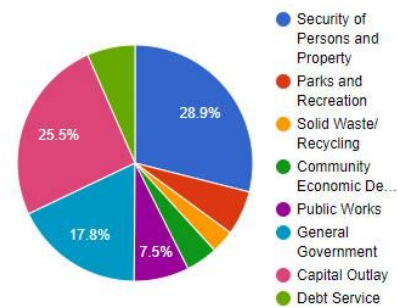
Where the Money Comes From:

Where the Money Goes:

2018 Where the Money Comes From

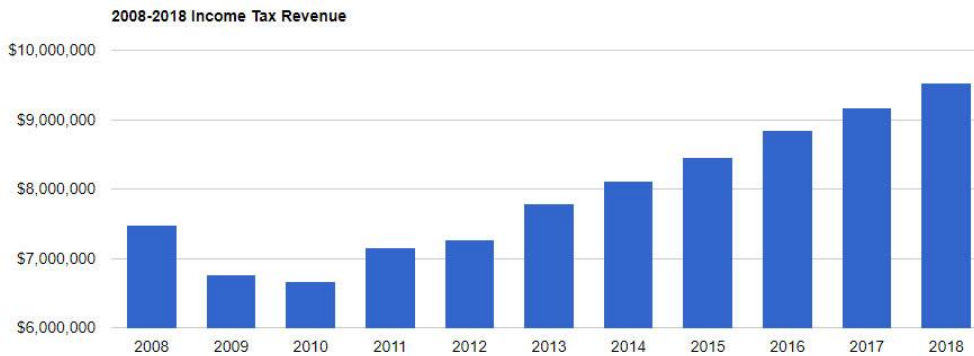


2018 Where the Money Goes



## 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.

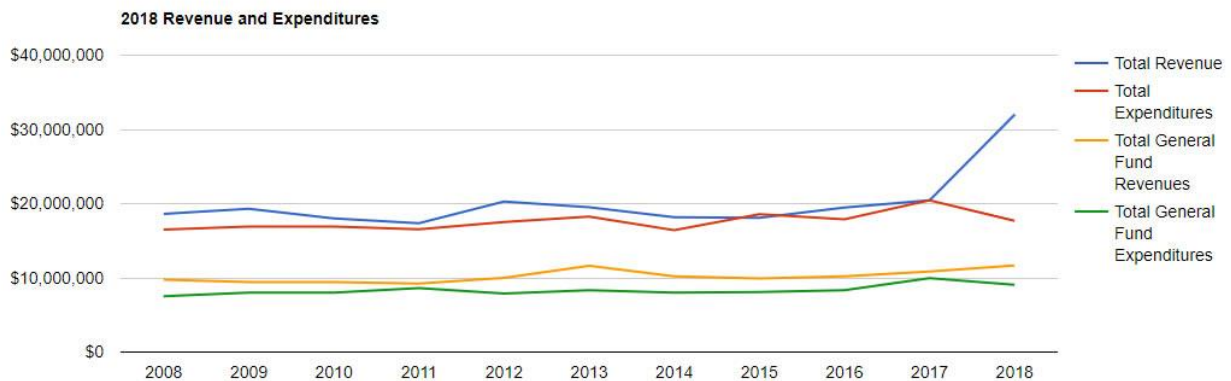




For purposes of balancing operations with capital investments and related debt service, income tax revenues are distributed into two funds according to the following allocation: 80 percent to the General Fund and 20 percent to the Capital Improvement Fund.

## Total Revenues and Expenditures

The line chart titled “Total Revenues and Expenditures including General Fund 2008-2018” provides a 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.

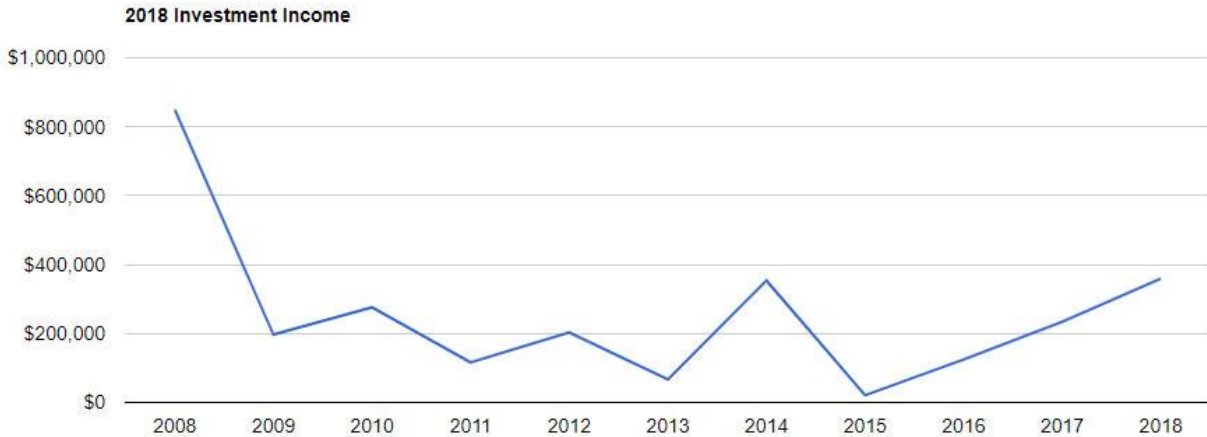


## Sound Financial Policies

To maintain a healthy fiscal environment, the City Council has adopted an array of financial policies:

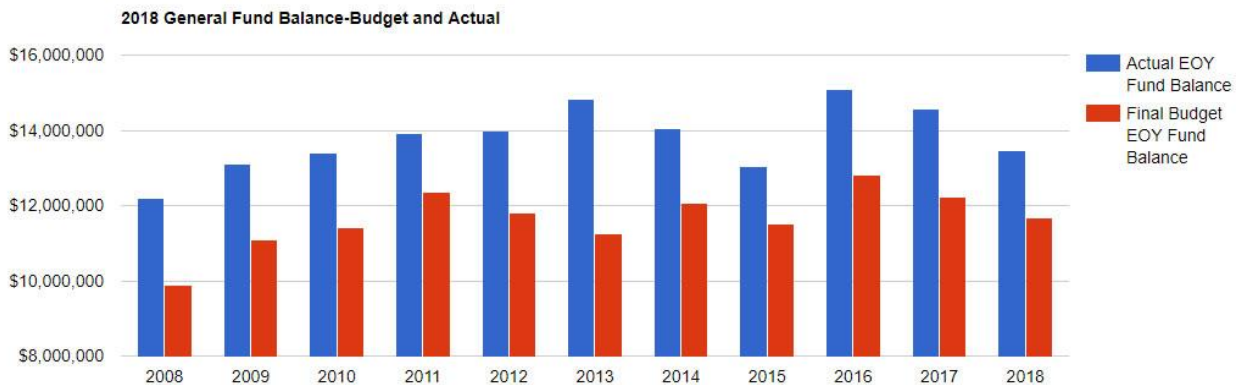
### ***Investment Policy***

The graph titled “Investment Income” reflects revenues which range from \$1,350,943 in 2007 to \$359,569 in 2018. 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 City Council adopts updates. 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 an essential 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, a targeted fund reserve for Arts & Amenities is established at \$376,237, and one year reserve of debt service payments in the General Bond Retirement Fund.



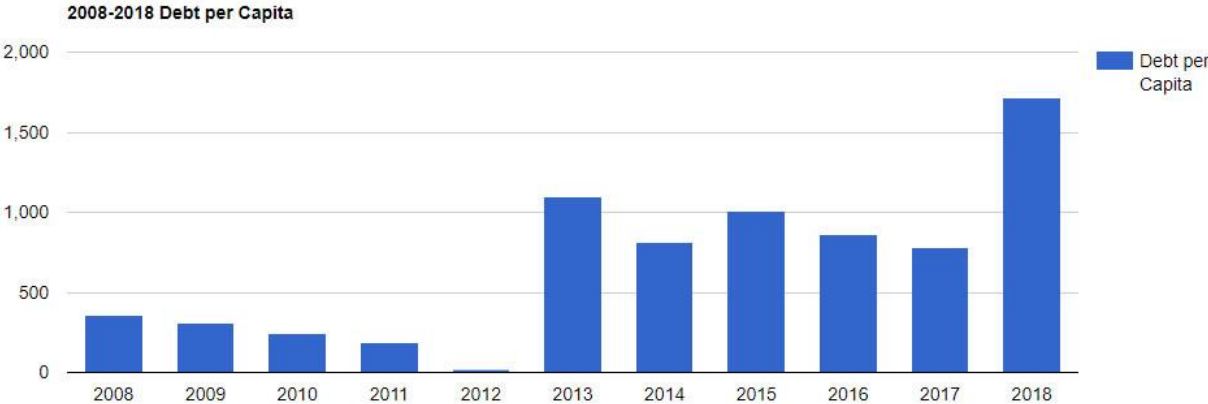
### **Debt**

On December 31, 2018, the City had \$18,766,012 of bonded debt; of this amount \$18,766,012 is special obligation debt and \$348,867 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. Payments secure the repayment of the bonds in place of taxes generated within the tax increment financing district which encompasses the entire Vintage Club development. The development includes 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.

In 2018, the city issued \$5,695,000 of special obligation bonds for infrastructure improvements at the Vintage Club housing development.

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.

Fire department staffing levels:

- ten full-time firefighter/paramedics,
- one customer service representative,
- 30 part-time firefighter/paramedic/emergency medical technicians.

Rescue equipment employed by the department includes:

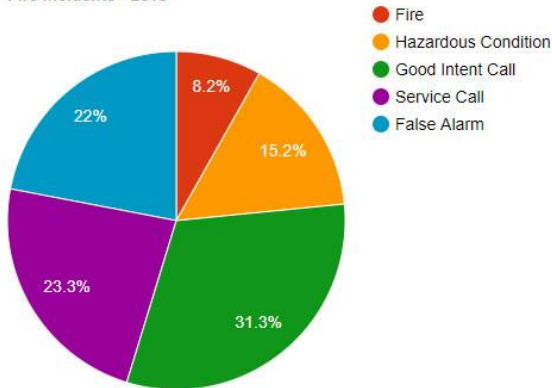
- two medic ambulances,
- one rescue pumper,
- one fire engine,
- one Quint fire truck,
- one support/hydrant maintenance vehicle.

Emergency medical service incidents continued to be one of the priorities of the department and represented 65 percent of the total incident volume.

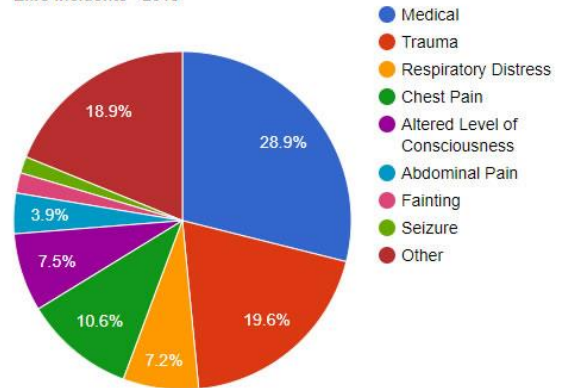
Total loss from fire in the community was \$315,750. The department attributes the low number of fire incidents to fire prevention efforts and the fire inspections conducted by fire safety staff. In a modern fire service, preventing the outbreak and

serious spread of fire is considered as essential to public safety as proficiency in fighting fires.

Fire Incidents - 2018



EMS Incidents - 2018



## 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 2018, 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

After 19 years of funding the department from a 5.5 mill levy, the City proposed to the community a new six mill levy in the spring of 2018. The levy was approved by the community to fund the operations of the fire department. Through careful planning and budget controls, the current levy should fund the department through 2030. 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.

Fire prevention education available for groups:

- Safety Center tours,
- CPR/First Aid classes, and
- Fire Prevention Week activities.

Approximately 68 individual safety programs were offered to 1,212 participants.

- The Child Car Seat Safety Program taught 141 citizens how to place their children in car seats correctly and properly install the car seats in vehicles.
- Since the beginning of this program in 1999, the department has instructed over 3,428 individuals in the proper installation of child car seats.



The fire department partners with the American Red Cross to supply and install free photoelectric smoke alarms.

- Began in 2016.
- Offered with a free home safety check.
- To date, 502 smoke alarms have been installed in 192 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 a crisis 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 2018, CERT members also supported the department with traffic management during the Independence Day Parade and in mock disaster drills.

## Smart911

Smart911 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, the City's paramedics can quickly, reliably, and securely access the resident's health history to aid in providing emergency care during a 911 response.

Smart911 is an abbreviated version of a person's health history stored on a secure personal webpage. It includes items such as medications, chronic health conditions, allergies, and doctor's contact information.

This service is free of charge and is in partnership with the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency. Learn more at [alerthc.org](http://alerthc.org).



## Police



The police department is responsible for providing safety services to the community, including crime prevention and education.

Staffing for the Montgomery Police Department includes 25 professionals:

- two full-time customer service representatives,
- one full-time mayor's court clerk, and
- 22 full-time officers:
  - the police chief,
  - 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 2018, officers handled approximately 13,000 incidents, including:

- 41 operating vehicle under the influence arrests,
- 495 auto crash reports, and
- issued 1,557 citations, of which 1,375 heard in Montgomery Mayor's Court, and 182 were heard in Hamilton County Municipal Court.

## Community Engagement

In 2018, 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,
- 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 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 space to meet and conduct sales.

## *Public Education*

The police department continued its public education efforts.

- Safety Village program for five- and six-year-old children
- Crime prevention presentations
- Bike safety demonstration
- Internet safety courses
- Neighborhood association and community group talks on a variety of other issues

## *K-9 Officer*

The police department received a long-awaited addition of a police K-9 beginning in 2018. "Ricky," a Dutch Malinois, along with his handler, Officer Alex Janszen, completed

an intensive, training program at Shallow Creek Kennels in Sharpsville, Pennsylvania. “Ricky” is a dual-purpose K9 trained for drug detection as well as patrol duties. The addition of a K-9 officer to the department is the culmination of several years of research, proposals, and planning that could not have happened without the generous assistance of several City partners. The purchase cost for the K-9 and training was funded through donations provided by the Haverkamp Foundation and TriHealth.



### *Partnerships*

An officer from the department is assigned as an 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 2018. 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.



## 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 2018, the Court heard 1,377 cases resulting in \$160,826 in fines, court costs, and computer fund charges. After assessing the required State fees, the City's portion of the fund was \$118,214.

The Montgomery Juvenile Court, with Referee Terry Donnellon presiding, heard ten criminal cases involving 12 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. Also, 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



Front row (L-R): Tony Brothers, Travis Wolfe, Sam Lindsley, Justin Liming, Walter Taylor, Jim Stewart, Chris Bryant, Robert Dunham  
Back row (L-R): Scott Schulte, Sarah Fink, Terry Willenbrink, Gary Heitkamp, Mike Rogers, Julie Machon, Nick Miller, Dan Miller

The public works department is responsible for the maintenance of buildings and grounds including four landmark buildings, 47.5 centerline miles of public streets, the storm sewer 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 department is led by the public works director with assistance from the assistant public works director, public works department



supervisor, recreation coordinator, recreation specialist, zoning and code compliance officer and nine service worker II and one service worker I.

## 2018 Accomplishments

In 2018, the public works staff coordinated the completion of major infrastructure repairs and rehabilitation of approximately 2.36 centerline miles of roadway resurfacing all or portions of 10 streets:

- Weller Road,
- Cooper Road,
- Indianwoods Drive,
- Turtlecreek Lane,
- Merrick Lane,
- Brandywine Lane,
- Wellerwoods Drive,
- Shadowpoint Court,
- Hightower Court, and
- Tanager Hills Drive.

In 2018, the public works staff also coordinated the replacement of 19 of the 704 total fire hydrants within the City. This work was done in conjunction with the Street Resurfacing Program and was the fifth year of a multi-year comprehensive plan to address the aging fire hydrants in the community. To date, the department has replaced 116 fire hydrants with new hydrants.



Public works staff completed the 2018 Onyx Mastic Surface (Black Onyx) Project. They coordinated repairs and application of Black Onyx to approximately 3.85 centerline miles of roadway, including all or portions of 11 streets.

- Tollgate Lane
- Knollbrook Terrace
- Shelldale Way
- Baywind Drive
- Southwind Drive
- Trailwind Drive
- Westwind Drive
- Jolain Drive
- Ross Avenue
- Campus Lane
- Todd Avenue



The public works department continued work in 2018 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 2018 approximately 750 ft. of guardrail was replaced on Zig Zag Road and Weller Road.



In 2018, Hamilton County performed a bridge superstructure replacement on Pfeiffer Road just east of Storybook Drive. The project will provide a 50-year expected design life for this valuable infrastructure on a very important arterial, Pfeiffer Road. In addition to replacing an aged bridge deck, the project also included both safety and aesthetic enhancements.

During 2018, public works staff also completed two additional capital improvement projects, including the Montgomery Road Sidewalk Project, which included the installation of a sidewalk on the east side of Montgomery Road from Weller Road to the main entrance of Bethesda North Hospital as well as a pedestrian bridge over Sycamore Creek. The Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky Regional Council of Governments (OKI) primarily funded this project by providing over 80 percent of total project costs through a grant.

The other capital improvement project was the Montgomery Road and Pfeiffer Road aesthetic improvements, which including both hardscape and landscape additions to beautify this busy intersection. The improvements were designed to carry the pedestrian feel of Montgomery Road, both north and south of Radabaugh Drive.

## Parks and Recreation

Upgrades to the Recreation Annex facility and equipment upgrades enhanced the group fitness classes that were offered regularly throughout 2018. Attendance continued to be strong in 2018 with 495 participants in the winter, spring, and summer sessions.



The summer mini-camps help keep kids active and learning in the summer. In 2018, 12 camps provided an fun summer activity to 271 participants. The annual School's Out Day Paintball trip in October is always a hit and sold out again this year.



In 2018, pool memberships sold strong, and there was an increase in the utilization of the pool passes. Additionally, 250 children learned the lifelong skill of swimming through swim lessons. The Makos Swim team ran at full capacity with 164 swimmers, including a brand new Mini Makos program and six coaches. The swim team completed a great season as Division Two Champions at the Tri-Country Swim League Championships in Oxford, Ohio.

In 2018, the City received the Tree City USA Award (22 years) and a Tree City USA Growth Award (19 years) for its ongoing commitment and action focused on environmental stewardship through, care of public trees in the City's urban forest. These awards continue the recognition received during 2009 when the Arbor Day Foundation recognized Montgomery as a "Sterling" Tree City USA, which at the time recognized Montgomery as just the sixth community in Ohio to earn this prestigious honor.

Americana hometown special events help make Montgomery unique and help to make Montgomery a great place to live, work and play. Local sponsors continue to add to the revenues generated for these events.

The Arts and Amenities budget supports the work of the Arts Commission and the Sister City Commission. Both commissions are active in supporting several events, including the annual Photo Contest, Live at the Uni concert series, Dinner Around The World, Bastille Day, and the July 3 Concert.

