

January 21, 2016

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Wayne S. Davis, City Manager
Department Heads 

SUBJECT: Thursday Update

The following information is provided to you as a summary of activities for the week of January 18, 2016 and as an announcement of activities in the coming weeks:

1. Last week fire department staff taught Basic Aid Training to the fourth grade students at Montgomery Elementary School. The students learned the basics of first aid and what to do in an emergency. This program has been offered over the years and continues to exemplify the excellent working relationship our staff has with the Sycamore Community Schools.
2. Last Thursday, Lieutenant Mark Stagge held a CPR certification class for a number of employees at Ohio National Financial Services. A second class is scheduled for tonight. Thanks to Mark for his continued work with the business community in providing for a safer work environment.
3. Fitness classes for 2016 have begun in the newly renovated Recreation Annex Building. The City currently offers six classes and has more than doubled the participation since January 2015, as we currently have 87 participants registered for the January 2016 classes. This compares quite favorably to three classes and 42 participants in 2015. The City introduced three new classes this session which include: beginning level yoga, mixed level yoga and an evening tai chi class. Future upgrades included in the 2016 Budget include painting the interior of the Recreation Annex as well as a new sound system. These improvements are anticipated being completed by the spring. Thanks to Sarah Fink and the public works department for their hard work and dedication to making this happen.
4. Julie Machon is in Wheeling, West Virginia this week attending Event Management training offered by the National Recreation and Parks Association and by the International Festivals and Events Association. This training provides an educational experience for those producing and working closely with community events. Julie has expressed her appreciation to be able to attend this training and we appreciate her willingness to learn about the trends and best practices of event management. We look forward to hearing about her experiences and the new ideas that will benefit the City.
5. The City was awarded the Gold Fit-Friendly Worksite status by the American Heart Association. Thank you to the Wellness Team for all your hard work and for promoting an overall culture of health and wellness.
6. Tracy Roblero will be attending the 2016 David J. Allor Planning and Zoning Workshop on Friday along with four members of the Board of Zoning Appeals. The conference is held annually and is sponsored by the Cincinnati Section of the American Planning Association and

offers information on the basics of planning and zoning and covers current topics of interest. The sessions are designed for local officials, zoning board and planning commission members, planners, community development professionals, attorneys, architects, designers, and other interested citizens. This event is an excellent learning opportunity where attendees can network with professional and citizen planners from the Greater Cincinnati region.

7. Warren Walker and Jim Hornsby of Duke Energy attended the City Council Work Session last night where they presented the City with an award in commemoration of the completion of the 2015 Accelerated Main Replacement Program. This program replaced 1,200 miles of cast iron gas main throughout Ohio and Kentucky. Both gentlemen expressed their appreciation of the partnership that they have with the City of Montgomery and its staff. We at the City certainly appreciate the relationship that has been established with Warren and the commitment Duke Energy shows to our community.



8. Matt Davis, of DSD Advisors, shared some nice thoughts with me following our meeting last night with Commissioner Portune and Mr. Hubbard of the Hamilton County Transportation Improvement District (TID). First and foremost he stated that the TID representatives were quite impressed with the vision and the interest demonstrated by City Council in recognizing the opportunity presented by the Gateway Redevelopment Area (GRA). He also mentioned the great work done by both Tracy and Brian in describing the important characteristics of the project as well as the City's progress to date with the GRA. Great job by all!
9. I attended an Ohio City/County Management Association (OCMA) Meeting in Columbus today. Among the agenda topics covered were final plans for the OCMA Winter Conference in Columbus on February 24 through 26; updates on the Association's new website; plans to enhance relationships and partnerships with the Ohio Municipal League and the Ohio Township Association; establishment of an International City/County Management Association Student Chapter at The Ohio State University (OSU); and the celebration of 100 years of the Council-Manager form of government in Westerville. Prior to the meeting, Tom Carroll, City Manager of Silverton, and I met with an OSU Master of Public Administration Student, at his request, regarding his interest in the profession. I appreciate the opportunity to be able to serve on this Board and to hopefully better serve the Council-Manager form of government in Montgomery.
10. A reminder for all that the Hamilton County Municipal League-First Suburbs Consortium will be holding a meeting at the Dan Beard Council Boy Scout Achievement Center in Evendale on Wednesday, January 27 at 6:00 p.m. Joy Pierson, the Community Development Administrator at Hamilton County Planning and Development Department, will be the featured speaker for the evening. Please let Connie know if you would like to attend.

11. The next Montgomery Citizens' Leadership Academy (MCLA) session is set for tonight, starting at 6:00 p.m. at Twin Lakes of Montgomery. This session, Zen and the Art of Citizenship, features Ray Kingsbury who will be speaking in place of Peter Block. Unfortunately, this session of MCLA is "sold out" and extra seats are not available for this session.
12. The City recently received notification from Hamilton County Auditor Dusty Rhodes that as a result of a data entry error made by the County's department of administration associated with a 2012 estate tax return, the City received \$21,409 in 2011 when these funds should have been distributed to Symmes Township. During a review of estate tax forms it was also found that in 2012 the Village of Indian Hill received \$5,097 that should have been disbursed to the City of Montgomery. Incorrect distributions occur occasionally, and the audit and reconciliation of accounts will take care of inconsistencies, which is what happened in this case. Please see the attached letter from Hamilton County stating the amount will be deducted from our first half real property tax settlement in 2016.
13. Attached is a thank you note from a resident commenting about the new Home Safety Check offered through the WeThrive program that the City developed at the beginning of the year. The safety audit informs residents of how they can safely live in their homes as they "age in place". The program is run through the fire department and will be featured in the February Bulletin as well as on the City's website. Thanks to Assistant Chief Shapiro for spearheading the program as well as the other members of the WeThrive Task Team.
14. Chief Simpson recently received correspondence from Chief Paul Hartinger of Blue Ash who expressed his appreciation for the work of Officers Shreve and Helgeson. The officers assisted Blue Ash with the apprehension of two suspects involved in breaking into area businesses. Our thanks to T.J. and Lauren for a job well done!
15. This week the City began accepting applications for an upcoming firefighter/paramedic exam. There are no open positions at the fire department; however, the exam process will create a Civil Service eligible list for this position classification. It is anticipated that the written exam will be held in late March, at a date yet to be determined.
16. All employee and City Council members' 2015 W-2's will be distributed by Friday, January 22. Thanks to Sharon Savitt for getting these forms out in a timely fashion.

Should you have questions or concerns regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

C: Connie Gaylor, Administrative Coordinator
Department Heads
Terry Donnellon, Law Director



County of Hamilton

DUSTY RHODES
AUDITOR

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
138 EAST COURT STREET
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

January 11, 2016

Michelle Greis, Finance Director
City of Montgomery
10101 Montgomery Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242

Dear Ms. Greis:

Recently it was learned that our department of administration had made a significant data entry error associated with an estate tax return filed in our office in 2012. Afterwards, Auditor Rhodes directed the staff to conduct a comprehensive internal review of data entry associated with estate tax forms that have been filed since 2010. The review is now complete.

Our review was done to identify and correct errors that had occurred. In many cases there were both positive and negative adjustments, resulting in net refunds to some districts, while other districts owed money back to the County.

Errors identified in the review were researched in order to allocate dollars to the correct taxing district. While the percentage of errors was very low in comparison to the total number of documents filed, errors did occur which impacted a number of districts.

For the City of Montgomery, this has resulted in an amount of **\$16,312.00 that is owed the County.**

Since the estate tax has been repealed, there will not be enough funds in the 2016 estate tax settlements to cover the refund. **Therefore, this amount will be deducted from your first half real property tax settlement in 2016.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Nurre".

David Nurre, Assistant Director of Finance

Cc: Dusty Rhodes

From: Ben Shapiro
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2016 10:42 PM
To: Paul Wright
Subject: Fwd: thank you!

FYI, See below.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Frese, Patricia (fresepa)" <fresepa@ucmail.uc.edu>
Date: January 16, 2016 at 9:22:22 AM EST
To: "bshapiro@ci.montgomery.oh.us" <bshapiro@ci.montgomery.oh.us>
Subject: **thank you!**

Thank you for developing/offering the Home Safety Check Program to allow residents to 'age-in-place'

This is something I had asked about last summer, for a neighbor who was having difficulty.

I don't know if she will take advantage of this but at least I know something like this is available.

Thanks to all again

Pat Frese
7575 Shadowhill Way



City of Blue Ash
4343 Cooper Road
Blue Ash, OH 45242-5699
ph. 513.745.8500
fax 513.745.8594
BlueAsh.com

David M. Waltz
City Manager

January 15, 2016

Chief Don Simpson
Montgomery Police Department
10150 Montgomery Rd.
Montgomery, OH 45242

Dear Chief Simpson,

Please let me express my sincere thanks to Montgomery Officers Shreve and Helgeson for assisting Blue Ash Police Officers on a serious run that resulted in the arrest of two felons.

On January 11, 2016 at 0038 hours one of our officers discovered two suspects on foot in a business area near Kenwood Rd. Almost immediately an alarm sounded at the Dairy Queen nearby, and the officer who encountered the suspects discovered they possessed criminal tools on them. Other Blue Ash Officers were occupied on another run, and your officers responded without hesitation to assist. Officer Shreve checked the business while Officer Helgeson assisted in taking the suspects into custody. They were key to resolving this incident quickly and safely.

Please express my appreciation to these officers for their help in capturing these suspects and for their assistance with my officers at the scene. The cooperation between our agencies over the years is a great benefit to our communities and to our police departments and this is a shining example of how well that assistance works.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Hartinger
Chief of Police

Police Department

4343 Cooper Road
Blue Ash, OH 45242-5699
Ph 513.745.8555
Fax 513.745.8598

Paul W. Hartinger
Chief of Police



Montgomery Fire Department maintains excellent insurance classification

The Montgomery Fire Department was recently evaluated by the Insurance Services Office and rated on how well they are prepared to respond and handle fires.

ISO confirmed the prior Public Protection Classification of a Class 2 rating for the Montgomery Fire Department first awarded five years ago.

ISO uses a scale of one to 10 for their rating system, one being the best and 10 resulting in higher insurance premium costs. This ISO rating for the Montgomery Fire Department equals better insurance rates for Montgomery residents and businesses.

ISO rates 48,754 fire departments across the country. In 2015, 132 departments were rated Class 1 and 1,060 departments were rated as Class 2.

Communities use the information provided by ISO to evaluate their fire protection services. Because these evaluations are done across the country, the program is able to provide an objective standard that helps fire departments in planning and budgeting for equipment, training and staffing. Communities with a better Public Protection Classification score allow residents and businesses to secure lower fire insurance premiums.

“The City of Montgomery is honored to be among the elite Ohio communities with excellent ISO scores. I am especially proud of the efforts the Montgomery Fire Department has made in the areas of fire prevention and safety. By being diligent stewards of safety equipment and systems, we have not only been able to exceed the safety needs of the community, but allow residents and businesses to also see the added benefits of securing lower insurance premiums,” Montgomery Fire Chief Paul Wright said.

During their evaluation, ISO reviews several systems that pertain to fire safety. ISO evaluates fire alarm and communication systems, including telephone lines, staffing and dispatching systems. The fire department's equipment, staffing, training and distribution of fire companies are also appraised. The condition and maintenance of hydrants are analyzed and a careful evaluation is done to study the amount of available water compared with the amount needed to suppress fires.

ISO also reviews property and casualty risk information for insurance companies. This information is used to determine appropriate fire insurance premiums for commercial and residential properties. ISO collects data on public fire protection, flood risk and the adoption and enforcement of building codes in communities. Communities also use this information to manage and mitigate risk.

'Minion Christmas' captures Best in Village at Festival of Trees contest

A "Minion Christmas" caught the eye of the Festival of Trees judge and won the Best in the Village prize for the Festival of Trees contest.

Grace and Ava Mirande created a unique tree wrapped in yellow garland with a giant eye, overalls, tiny kids black boots and a Santa hat as the topper. Not only did a "Minion Christmas" win the Best in the Village prize but this eye-catching, original tree won the

popular vote at the Ohio National Financial Services location as well.

In addition to Best in the Village prize, the tree with the highest votes from each of the four locations each won a prize and these prize winners included:

» Universalist Church, "Twas the Night Before Christmas" created by the Rinehart and Johnson cousins;

» Bethesda North Hospital, "Frosty the

Snowman" created by Pauline Cook;

» Twin Lakes Senior Living Community, "Things You Shouldn't Wait to Say" created by Colleen Kuderer; and

» Ohio National Financial Services, "Minion Christmas" created by Grace and Ava Mirande.

Winners were selected by attendees who placed votes for their favorite tree at the City of Montgomery's annual Holiday in the Village

event. These four locations included Ohio National Financial Services, the historic Universalist Church, Twin Lakes Senior Living Community and Bethesda North Hospital and displayed a total of twelve trees submitted by different businesses and community members. The trees added to the holiday festivities of the annual Holiday in the Village event.

Many of the trees exploded with creative twists on this traditional holiday icon. Thanks to the following entries:

Pauline Cook, "Frosty the Snowman;" Julie Schweiger, "Silver and Gold;" Colleen Kuderer, "Things You Shouldn't Wait to Say;" Katrina Prescott, "Kawaii Not?" Grace and Ava Mirande, "Minion Christmas;" Pamela and Melanie

McLaughlin, "A Frozen Christmas;" Tonya Sult of First Watch Restaurant-Harper's Point, "Holly Jolly Breakfast;" Jill Wetenkamp of Twin Lakes Senior Living Community, "Under Construction;" Emily Davis of the Ohio National Wellness Team, "Catch the Holiday Bug;" Rinehart/Johnson cousins, "Twas the Night Before Christmas;" Girl Scout Troop #48471, "The Giving Tree;" Rosie Stephens of the Hospice of Cincinnati Support Team, "Hospice of Cincinnati Support Team."



PROVIDED

A Minion Christmas won the Best in the Village prize for the Festival of Trees contest in Montgomery.