

July 16, 2015

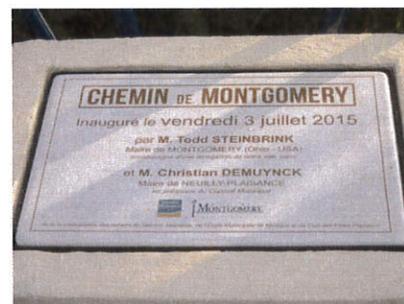
TO: Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Wayne S. Davis, City Manager *WSD*
Department Heads

SUBJECT: Thursday Update

The following information is provided to you as a summary of activities for the week of July 13, 2015 and as an announcement of activities in the coming weeks:

1. As a reminder, City Council is scheduled to meet in Work Session on Wednesday, July 22 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.
2. Last Thursday and Friday, Kelly Beach and Cindy Abner attended the Ohio Municipal League (OML) Municipal Income Tax Seminar. The seminar centered on the provisions and changes to Chapter 718 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) due to the passage of House Bill 5 in December 2014. A sample municipal income tax ordinance was provided at the training, resulting from the work of Frost Brown Todd, OML and several tax administrators. Kelly is working with Terry Donnellon to have a final product that can be presented to City Council in time for a third reading in November. This will ensure the amended Ordinance is in effect by January 1, 2016, as required by ORC 718. The current income tax Ordinance will continue to apply to tax years 2015 and earlier.
3. Within the last few days, Jack Wild, Gary Blomberg, Mayor Steinbrink and I returned from our Sister City visit to Neuilly-Plaisance. Everyone had a great trip and we were all overwhelmed by our treatment, our hosts and the level of respect and significance that our French friends attach to the relationship with Montgomery. We were able to meet with Mayor Demuynck and his staff and begin planning for work assignments for future exchanges between the two cities for youth leaders as well as for a seniors exchange. We thank all of our staff and our Sister Cities Commission for assisting us with the trip, and to City Council and staff for very capably filling in while we were overseas. Following are a few photos from a trip.





4. Chief Simpson returned from the FBI National Academy Associates Conference in Seattle, Washington on Wednesday. We appreciate the networking and vital information these types of conferences provide to our department and to Don for staying on top of national issues that have the possibility to affect us here in our community and region.
5. The submissions for the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Gateway Redevelopment Area (GRA) were submitted to the City on Monday. All four development teams submitted a response. Tracy Roblero and Frank Davis are in the process of generating a brief summary of each of the submissions and plan to distribute the plans to the members of the CIC GRA Ad-Hoc Committee and the advisors to the Committee next week. Presentations by all four teams to the CIC GRA Ad-Hoc Committee are scheduled for August 4 and August 13, 2015.
6. Public works staff devoted a crew all day Tuesday to remove a very large oak tree that fell across Margaret Lane during Monday's storm. Staff also addressed several other areas throughout the city with branches and/or debris from the storm.
7. Assistant Chief Shapiro and Chief Wright met with Dr. Conal Roche to discuss his interest in serving as the department's Medical Director on Tuesday. As mentioned previously the current Medical Director, Dr. Van Zile, is planning for his future retirement and will be leaving us as soon as we secure his successor. Dr. Roche has agreed to fill this role. Assistant Chief Shapiro will begin processing all of the transitional paperwork and we will provide you with his start date once we receive notification confirmation from the different local, state and federal agencies. Again, we thank Dr. Van Zile for his many years of service to the City.
8. Tracy Roblero and Gary Heitkamp met with representatives from the Gate of Heaven Cemetery on Wednesday to discuss a proposed improvement to the cemetery. The Gate of Heaven representatives also shared plans for future improvements and discussed potential issues and their process moving forward.
9. On Wednesday, Julie Prickett was one of the presenters for the Center for Local Government's Leadership Academy session on human resources topics. Julie shared information on the topic of performance evaluations to a group of new supervisors from various area local governments.
10. On Thursday, initial asphalt base repairs for the 2015 Bituminous "Black Mat" Project began. The project area for this year's project includes Zig Zag Road from Cooper Road to Mitchell Farm Lane and then west to Monte Drive. Weather permitting, the black mat surfacing will begin the week of July 27, 2015.
11. Chief Wright will be attending the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association Conference in Columbus beginning Thursday and concluding on Monday. At the conference he will be leading all of the

general sessions as well as the business meeting as part of his role as the President of the Association. On Sunday night he will be swearing in his successor to the office of President as Paul's term comes to an end. Paul expressed to me how thankful he was for the opportunity and allowing him the time to work on the issues that were important to the Fire Chiefs' at the state-level. We are quite proud of Paul's achievements and how these reflect on Montgomery.

12. On Thursday morning, Vice Mayor Dobrozi, Jim Hanson, Kelly Beach and I participated in the City's annual meeting of the Tax Incentive Review Council. In addition to Montgomery representatives, Greg Jarvis and Beth Weber, from the Hamilton County Auditor's Office and Sycamore Schools, respectively, also attended the meeting. This annual meeting is scheduled to review the status of the City's current Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreements to ensure compliance. We are happy to report that our TIFs are all in compliance.
13. Crews from Barrett Paving Materials, Inc. continued work on the Montgomery Road and Pfeiffer Road Improvement Project this week as the final phase of brick paver sidewalk is being installed along Pfeiffer Road. Staff continues to coordinate the scheduling of the final asphalt milling and asphalt resurfacing which will take place on two consecutive weekends.
14. Complete Demolition Services is approaching completion of the demolition of the former Ford Dealership buildings as crews are removing the concrete slabs and foundations this week. Weather permitting, the oil water separator will be removed early next week and the sewer and water caps will be completed. Staff continues to monitor this project to assure there are no potential issues that are unearthed during the excavation process and the demolition team has ensured staff that the site is secure for our Bastille Day celebration.
15. Public works staff reports that all asphalt pathways throughout Hopewell Cemetery are receiving asphalt repairs and are being seal coated. This preventative maintenance work is done to maintain and sustain the infrastructure within Hopewell Cemetery.
16. Work continued this week on the 2015 Street Resurfacing Program as crews finished all catch basin repairs and/or replacements. Weather permitting, asphalt grinding and sub-base repairs will begin on Monday, July 20. The project completion date is scheduled for August 24, 2015.
17. The police department reports that the 2012 Dodge Charger seized as a result of a traffic pursuit that involved multiple jurisdictions has been sold at auction and the forfeiture settled. Our portion of the seizure was \$6,800 and was receipted into the Law Enforcement Fund. These funds can be utilized for equipment purchases. Thank you to the police department and to the finance department for working through what can be a tedious forfeiture process.
18. This morning Officers Mike Davenport and Lauren Hegelson interrupted a theft of construction equipment on a teardown/rebuild site on Westwind Lane. Two subjects fled the scene, and were not caught but they have been identified and warrants are being filed.
19. Please find attached Montgomery-related news articles that appeared in the local media since our last update.

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

CELEBRATING BASTILLE DAY



ALAIN JOCARD, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

French troops march down the Champs-Élysées during the annual Bastille Day military parade in Paris on Tuesday.

Festivals

Bastille Day Celebration, noon to 11 p.m., City of Montgomery, Montgomery Road, Children's area with games and pony rides, Waiters' Race, walking tours, food from several restaurants; beer, wine, water and soft drinks available. Music by Blessed Union of Souls, The Mystics, Faux Frenchmen and the Sycamore Community Band. Free. Presented by Montgomery Sister Cities Commission. 891-2424; www.montgomeryohio.org. **Montgomery.**



FILE PHOTO

Montgomery's annual Bastille Day Celebration is noon to 11 p.m. Saturday The celebration includes a children's area with games and pony rides, Waiters' Race and walking tours.

MONTGOMERY

Houdini's Room Escape opens in city

The live-adventure, entertainment venue, Houdini's Room Escape, opened Friday on Montgomery Road.

Houdini's Room Escape will feature three themes, including participants being trapped at the top of Carraway Tower, locked in an infectious disease laboratory or sequestered inside Houdini's gaming parlor.

Each room includes puzzles and brain teasers, and requires creativity to solve the mysteries and unlock the secrets in order to escape, according to a news release.

Participants are allowed 60 minutes to solve the clues and complete their mission. The escape rooms are high tech with monitoring devices and a little real-time help with clues if necessary.

Houdini's Room Escape was founded by John and Peggy Kennedy of

Montgomery. Their inspiration came from a family vacation visit to a room escape venue in New York City, according to the news release.

The room escape will be open 6-11 p.m. Thursday through Sunday and until midnight on Friday and Saturdays. Rooms are scheduled by the hour and accommodate groups of three to 12 at a time.

Time slots can be booked at <http://www.houdinisroomescape.com/>. Admission is \$28 per person for a one-room experience.

Houdini's Room Escape is at 9309 Montgomery Road in downtown Montgomery.

Another escape venue, Escape The Room Challenge, opened April in West Chester Township.

Stephen Roy Wilder, The Enquirer

City presents awards to its July Fourth parade winners

The City of Montgomery would like to thank all of the parade participants and volunteers who made the annual Independence Day Parade such a success. Thousands of residents and visitors came out to enjoy the parade and cheered with enthusiasm and patriotism. Rough estimates indicate that 7,000 people lined the parade route.

The following award recipients were honored after the annual Montgomery Independence Day Parade for their enthusiasm and patriotic spirit. These winning parade entries received certificates and ribbons thanking them for their participation in the parade.

» Matrix All Stars won the Best

Patriotic Spirit ribbon for bravely and enthusiastically performing backflips on the hot asphalt.

» Best Float ribbon was awarded to the Montgomery Arts Commission and the Sycamore High School Choral Program for entertaining the waiting crowds with patriotic songs.

» Best Overall ribbon was given to Montgomery Square Shopping Plaza for their festive and patriotic float that incorporated all the businesses located at the plaza.

Thanks also go to those who served in the capacity of parade judges: community volunteers Ron Keeling and John Nolan, and Jim Mayer, executive director of Twin Lakes Senior Living. A special thank you to parade announcers Greg Leader and Nancy Nolan.

Faith Lynch

Noggin gets workout at Houdini's Room Escape

Marika Lee
mlee1@communitypress.com

On the evening of July 9, a group of Cincinnati-area residents rushed through clues and puzzles in an abandoned laboratory trying to find a cure to save humanity and the code to get themselves out of the locked room within an hour.

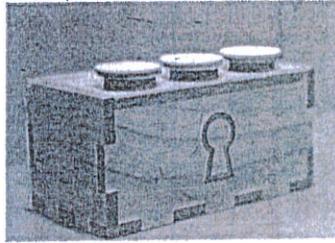
Peggy Kennedy of Montgomery was in the room, too, taking notes and brainstorming ideas on how the group's experience could be improved.

In another part of the building, her husband John and their children watched from the control room, sending transmissions and giving clues to humanity's last hope.

The group was the final test group for Houdini's Room Escape, an entertainment venue that opened Friday in Montgomery.

The Kennedys got the idea to open an escape room venue after they visited one during a vacation in New York City.

"We all had a great time, but we



PROVIDED/JOHN KENNEDY

Visitors to Houdini's Room Escape must solve a series of puzzles and riddles to escape rooms in 60 minutes.

had a great time together," John Kennedy said.

"The activity requires you to work together. We were engaged with one another, interacting with one another and it was just a great experience. We immediately thought this would be the kind of thing we would like to do more of and we started to put plans in place to open our own."



PROVIDED/JOHN KENNEDY

The Kennedy family stands in the first room of their Houdini's Room Escape, the entertainment venue they opened Friday in Montgomery. They expect to have five rooms opened in the venue by fall.

WILLING TO TRY HOUDINI'S ROOM ESCAPE?

- » Location: 9309 Montgomery Road
- » Cost: \$28 per person
- » Bookings: <http://www.houdinisroomescape.com/tickets>

They have been working on renovating 9309 Montgomery Road, behind Saxbys Coffee and Delicio Coal Fired Pizza, since February. Houdini's Room Escape had its soft opening with its first room, Pandemic.

"We will take you and up to nine to 11 other people. We will give you minimal instructions and then lock the door. Then you have 60 minutes to figure out how to get out of the room," John Kennedy said.

For Pandemic, participants must find the cure to the Z-virus that is wiping out humanity and the code to unlock the door.

Houdini's Game Room, the second room, is scheduled to open by the end of July.

The Tower, a replica of the gift shop and top of the Carew Tower in downtown Cincinnati, is the scheduled to open by mid-August.

Houdini's Game Room will have five rooms in total with the Oval Office and Pharaoh's Tomb scheduled for opening in the fall and end of the year, respectively.

Each of the rooms will be filled with puzzles, riddles and clues that participants will have to work together to solve.

"The activity by its very nature requires you to think creatively. The puzzles and riddles are typically not about brain power, it is more if you can think creatively and imaginatively about it.

"The whole idea is that if you have ever done a group project you know what it is like trying to get something done with 10 people.

"So, it forces them to communicate and discuss things," John Kennedy said.

He has already had interest from businesses to use the venue as a team building activity and has added a conference room.

"The city is excited to welcome Houdini's Room Escape to our business community," Montgomery Community Development Director Tracy Roblero said. "We believe that Houdini's Room Escape is a unique entertainment destination that will complement the existing downtown businesses and drive a new customer base to Montgomery."

John and Peggy Kennedy, both Air Force officers and Cincinnati natives, moved to Montgomery in 2003 and wanted to start the business in Montgomery.

"It is a great area to have the business and it would be convenient for our kids who are still in school. We want them to be actively involved in the business and learn about business as well," John Kennedy said.

Want to know more about what is happening in Montgomery? Follow Marika Lee on Twitter: @ReporterMarika