

November 30, 2017

TO: City Manager, Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: All Department Heads
Connie Gaylor, Administrative Coordinator

SUBJECT: Thursday Update

The following information is provided to you as a summary of activities for the week of November 27, 2017 and as an announcement of activities in the coming weeks:

1. As a reminder, the Financial Planning Committee and Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committee will meet on Monday, December 4 at 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. respectively. The Law and Safety Committee has cancelled their meeting for the month of December.
2. As a reminder, City Council is scheduled to hold the City Council Swearing-In Ceremony and Organizational Meeting on Wednesday, December 6 at 6:15 p.m. The City Council Business Session will begin at 7:00 p.m. after the Swearing-In reception.
3. On Monday, Brian Riblet, John Crowell, Greg Vonden Benken and Julie Prickett conducted interviews for the position of police sergeant. Both James Martin and TJ Shreve performed well throughout the promotional process and provided the interview team two qualified candidates from which to choose to fill the one position. After considerable deliberation, Detective Shreve was offered the position. Please extend congratulations to TJ Shreve who will be promoted to the rank of sergeant on December 4. In addition, a sincere thank you goes to James Martin, Lauren Frazier and Alex Janszen for stepping up to participate in this important selection process.
4. On Tuesday afternoon, Terry Donnellon, Brian Riblet, Katie Smiddy and Brenda Wehmer, from Dinsmore held a conference call with representatives from Brandicorp and Traditions to discuss the Gateway Redevelopment Area (GRA). The team discussed updates to the Service Agreement and Maintenance Agreement important issues and upcoming deadlines to keep the project moving forward.
5. The Board of Zoning Appeals met on Tuesday evening to consider a variance for a fence in the front yard of a residential lot in Storybook Acres. After discussion, the Board tabled the application and directed staff to initiate a discussion with the Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committee of Council regarding the fence regulation to determine if there is any desire to have the Planning Commission reconsider the regulation. Staff will bring this to the Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committee of Council for discussion in December.
6. The internal Gateway Redevelopment Area (GRA) team met on Wednesday afternoon to discuss status updates and solutions for generating a Preferred Developer Agreement for the development area.
7. Officer Nimeskern was recently injured during a defensive tactics training and will be off for a few weeks tending to his injuries. We wish him a speedy recovery.

8. Chief Crowell attended the AAA Traffic Safety Awards Dinner Wednesday evening. Last year, the city was awarded with a Platinum Award for our traffic safety efforts.
9. Brian Riblet and Terry Willenbrink worked to complete the 2017 for the Tree City USA and Tree City Growth Award applications this week and submitted both applications on Thursday. If successful, this would mark the 22nd consecutive year the City will be presented with the Tree City USA award and the 19th consecutive year of achieving the Tree City Growth award.
10. Each year, the Montgomery City Council members and staff send out holiday cards to those who have served or enhanced the community of Montgomery during the past year. In 2015, Montgomery City Council asked the Arts Commission to coordinate an art contest, to generate some new choices for the card's front panel. Selected for the 2017 holiday card is an original design of Universalist Church by Paul Oliver. Mr. Oliver's art was chosen from a field of over a dozen entries. It depicts the Universalist Church during the holidays. He will receive recognition as the artist on the cards, as well as a Montgomery-themed gift basket.
11. Holiday in the Village is this Saturday, December 2, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m., and will commence with the tree lighting ceremony on Neully-Plaisance Plaza at 5:00 p.m. Carolers from the Montgomery Community Church will once again be at the tree lighting as well as the winners of the coloring contest. I.C.I. Art Studio sponsored the coloring contest. The Universalist Church will turn into the North Pole Workshop where kids can visit Santa, create a craft with Mrs. Claus and enjoy free refreshments served up by our Parks and Recreation Commission members. Hot chocolate for the event is donated by Awakenings Coffee and Wine. A horse-drawn wagon will take people around the downtown area between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. The Jolly Trolley will take passengers between the Universalist Church, Twin Lakes, Bethesda North and Ohio National Financial Services where each location will feature a fun holiday activity and a display of Festival of Trees Contest entries. Thank you to all staff members who work behind the scenes and during the event to provide a festive atmosphere for the community, one which for many has become an annual family tradition.
12. The Pancake Breakfast with Santa will be held on Saturday, December 9 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., at Terwilliger Lodge. Breakfast is \$5.00 per person or \$20.00 for a family for all-you-can-eat pancakes. Santa will be on hand and attendees are encouraged to bring a canned good to donate to Matthew 25 Ministries. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Holiday Family Fund.
13. Celebrate the "12 Days of Christmas" in Montgomery, Dec.1-12, 2017, with classic holiday activities and events each day. Come see Santa at American Savings Bank and at Aglamesis Bro's as well as during the City's events. Don't miss the many delightful holiday shopping specials sponsored by local Montgomery businesses. For a complete listing of all the holiday activities, please visit montgomeryohio.org. The "12 Days of Christmas" in Montgomery is sponsored by the Montgomery Ohio Chamber of Commerce and the City of Montgomery.
14. Please find attached the November monthly report for the Fire department.
15. Please see attached news articles that were published since our last update.

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

C: Brian Riblet, Interim City Manager
Department Heads
Terry Donnellon, Law Director

**MONTGOMERY FIRE DEPT.
DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION
MONTHLY INSPECTION REPORT
November -2017**

<u>OCCUPANCY CLASS</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>		
	Initial	Re-inspection	Total
RESIDENTIAL	1	0	1
PUBLIC BUILDINGS	2	5	7
HEALTH CARE FACILITIES	3	13	16
CHILD CARE FACILITIES	0	0	0
EDUCATIONAL BUILDINGS	0	3	3
CHURCHES	0	0	0
MERCANTILE	33	3	36
Sub Totals	39	24	63

Other Misc. Inspections:

- 9 Inspections with N I C
- 2 Home Fire Inspections for Foster Care
- 5 max. occ. Checks at Nightclubs Wed PM before Thanksgiving.

TOTAL INSPECTIONS → 79

RESULTS OF INSPECTIONS

VIOLATIONS ISSUED _____	48
VIOLATIONS CORRECTED _____	31
TOTAL VIOLATIONS ISSUED IN 2017 _____	477
TOTAL VIOLATIONS CORRECTED IN 2017 _____	447
RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED _____	03
RECOMMENDATIONS CORRECTED _____	02
COMPLAINTS ANSWERED _____	00
REFERRALS MADE TO OTHERS _____	00
PERMITS ISSUED _____	00
PERMITS WITHHELD _____	00
APPLIANCES RED TAGGED _____	00
CITATIONS ISSUED _____	00
WARNING TAGS ISSUED _____	00
SUPPLY SYSTEMS INSTALLED _____	00
SPRINKLER SYS. TESTS OBSERVED _____	05
ALARM SYS. TESTS OBSERVED _____	04
FIRE DRILLS OBSERVED _____	01
TORNADO DRILLS OBSERVED _____	00
SYSTEMS TEST CERTIFICATES RECEIVED _____	11
PLAN REVIEWS MADE _____	08

PROGRAM INVOLVEMENT:

Red Cross Residential Smoke Detector Installs.
Meeting with Knox Box company ref new products

Lt. Mark S. Stagge
Fire Safety Inspector

Trim those trees before you lose

power

I am a former employee of Cincinnati Gas & Electric (now Duke Energy), retired in 1992, and nothing has changed in 25 years. Our customers do not want our "tree butchers" — or what we would call "tree trimmers" — trimming their trees.

Live trees and live wires do not like each other, so the higher the voltage, the wider the clearance must be, and trimming is not the answer because trees continue to grow when they are trimmed, and repetitive trimming only drives up cost. The consumer pays. A tree does not have to touch a wire to make the power fail. In high voltage, they can arc over. And when a high voltage line goes out of service, thousands of people lose service.

I worked in the right-of-way department and many times had to go talk with an unhappy customer over this issue. I would like to ask Symmes Township's Joe Gossi: When you bought this property, was the power line there? If it was and if it was a high voltage line, it definitely had an easement on it. And if yes, did you read it?

Bernard Paolucci, Covington

Duke leaves 'toothpick' tree in wake of trimming

I've grown up in my home since 1960 and have experienced the tree-trimming by electrical companies numerous times. However, this summer, I was appalled by the aggressiveness in my entire neighborhood in Montgomery, a community proud of our tree heritage. Many of the trees in our neighborhood hardly look like trees anymore and surely aren't balanced, let alone shade-producing like they used to be. It's disheartening to see trees I planted with my father in the early '60s now looking like half-trees in the aftermath of a tornado.

Many bushes along the perimeter of my yard were damaged by the huge falling branches, not to mention the 6-inch diameter holes they left in my yard when trunks landed vertically. The mess of debris left in my yard for me to clean up was also aggravating.

Trying to get a Duke Energy supervisor to respond to my concerns was impossible, and I'm still waiting for them to contact me in regards to one tree they trimmed so aggressively, it looks like a towering toothpick that now just needs to be removed.

Roger Roth, Montgomery

Homeowners fight Duke Energy to stop cutting down trees

One says he stands to lose \$206,000 worth

SYMMES TOWNSHIP, Ohio – Angry homeowners are taking legal action to stop Duke Energy from cutting down their trees.

"It feels like we're being bullied," said Kim Wiethorn.

Dozens of homeowners have taken steps to prevent the utility from cutting down swaths of trees like it already has in yards in Deerfield Township.

Duke Energy is cutting down trees – not just trimming them – in a path within 50 feet of overhead transformer lines. A utility spokesperson calls it a critical safety issue.

But one homeowner says Duke wants to take out \$206,000 worth of trees in his yard, and others complain about losing privacy and property values.

Fred Vonderhaar of Symmes Township says he has too much to lose. "These trees here ... basically in the past they've come and trimmed them and cut them back so they don't grow into the power lines and now they actually want to chop them off at the ground," Vonderhaar said.

"There's \$206,000 worth of trees here."

Homeowners filed a class action complaint with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

Wiethorn looks at the pine trees in her backyard. They separate her house from an apartment complex.

"With these gone, I'll be looking into apartment buildings," she said.

She got a notice on her door over the summer that Duke was coming to do its every six-year maintenance. But this time they had hand written that they were going to remove all trees 50 feet of center from the transmission lines.

"It's really going to hurt our property values here in Symmes and Montgomery and Deerfield and we have a beautiful area," Wiethorn said.

But Duke spokesperson Sally Thelen said it's necessary.

“The vegetation doesn't even have to actively touch a transmission line to cause an outage,” Thelen said.

Thelen said the change in policy stems from the widespread 2003 blackouts caused by vegetation around a transformer.

“As a company, we're adapting the practice of adhering the same trimming practices for our higher voltage transmission lines as we are for our lower voltage transmission lines,” she said.

But Duke is going over the line, Wiethorn said.

“I knew there was an easement, but I was not aware that they were going to change try to change the guidelines and come out and just totally strip my yard of all the trees,” Wiethorn said. “Had I known that, I might not have moved into this area or chosen this house.”

Homeowners hope to know in a matter of days whether or not PUCO will order Duke to cease and desist until a decision can be made. Ultimately, homeowners want that commission to make a clear decision about how much cutting Duke can do.

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Montgomery offering free recycling service to help residents, reduce landfill waste

by Scott Dimmich, WKRC

Monday, November 27, 2017



CINCINNATI (WKRC) - If you're a Montgomery resident and looking to get rid of clothes and small housewares, there's a new free, environmentally-friendly option to recycle some of what you don't need.

"Recycling is very important to me, and I love the idea of this being part of the recycling program because it emphasizes that not just paper and plastics can be reused and reutilized. Things in your house that you may not feel like have a purpose can be repurposed," said Amy Schmidlin, a resident of Montgomery who is participating in the program.

Schmidlin, a mother of three, is happy that items she no longer needs can find a new home. She's also happy those items won't go to a landfill.

"Knowing that they will collect a number of different items, and - ideally in my mind - they would be best utilized to either be recycled or repurposed for someone else's use."

The City of Montgomery is focused on recycling textiles, shoes, and small appliances.

"Those things tend to end up in the landfill. We want to make it very easy for our citizens of Montgomery to recycle those items and divert them from the landfill," explained Mark Laskovics, the chairman of Montgomery's Environmental Advisory Commission

This program doesn't just help the environment; there are financial benefits. By using the Hamilton County Residential Recycling Incentive Program, more recycling in the city means more revenue into the city to support recycling programs.

Laskovics said, "Right now, our diversion rate is running about 25%. If we can get that up to about 30%, and we've been there in the past, we can up that remuneration to \$50,000."

Whether it's getting rid of clutter in your home or just being a part of an environmental-friendly initiative, Montgomery residents have a new, free way to recycle.

"The City of Montgomery does have a culture of recycling and reusing, so the more we can recycle, reuse, repurpose, and compost, the better it is for the environment," said Laskovics.