

October 19, 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 October 16, 2017 and as an announcement of activities in the coming weeks:

1. The 2017 United Way Soup Kitchen was a great success last Friday. Thank you to the United Way Team: Sharon Savitt, Mike Davenport and Scott Schulte for their efforts in the setup and cleanup of this event and to all those who contributed to the meal. It was well organized and a great time of camaraderie in support of a good cause. In total, there was \$286 raised for the Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund. Also, you may have received an email from the United Way launching the 2017 campaign. This is a different method of pledging than we have had in the past, if you have any questions please see Sharon Savitt.
2. The second Live at the Uni concert was held on Monday, October 16. Nancy Nolan, acclaimed jazz vocalist, was quite a hit with the 134-people attending. The fall series concludes on Monday, October 30 with a program of Broadway favorites performed by baritone Sola Fadiran. Twin Lakes Senior Living Community sponsored the Live at the Uni series and Montgomery Inn sponsored the reception. Thanks to the Montgomery Arts Commission for their time in creating this top notch musical concert series for our community.



3. Detective Shreve is attending the Magloclen (Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network) Conference for Investigations this week in Ocean City, Maryland.

4. Members of the Fire Department traveled to the Cincinnati Fire Department Burn Tower to participate in three days of “Live Fire” training. In this training, firefighters run through a series of fire evolutions to hone their extinguishing skills, strategies and tactics. The Department’s internal training policy requires that all firefighters have a “live fire” training experience once every two years. The Madeira – Indian Hill Joint Fire District firefighters also participated in the training in a spirit of cooperation. Thanks to Lt. Morgan for his work in coordinating and conducting this valuable training.
5. Brian Riblet travelled to Columbus yesterday to give a presentation to ODOT officials in an effort to secure Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds to help subsidize the Pfeiffer Road at Deerfield Road intersection improvement project. The City will be notified by mid-November if we are successful.
6. On Tuesday, 16 seniors participated in Sycamore High School’s Senior Service Day, by assisting to clear sticks and debris in the City’s parks. The City appreciated being included in this project again this year and welcomed the seniors’ help in the parks.
7. The internal Gateway Redevelopment Area (GRA) team met on Wednesday with Gateway Partners to receive status updates on the GRA development project.
8. The Ross Avenue Sidewalk and Storm Drainage project is essentially complete! The only remaining work is restoration of the yards with topsoil and sod.



9. As a follow up to the previous item, the City has received many compliments on the Ross Avenue project. Bonnie Finn of 9615 Ross Avenue recently emailed staff through the website portal and stated the following:

“I just wanted to compliment you on your choice of the Loveland Company who installed the sidewalks on Ross Ave. I live at 9615 Ross, am recently retired and have observed daily this company’s excellent work ethic. They showed up before dawn and sometimes stayed until almost dark. They kept the street clean each day, were courteous and friendly. They were willing to move out of the way when I had to get out of my garage and were careful to not damage my lawn. I think that we so often complain when workers do something we don’t like. I say “bravo” to the Loveland company.”

We thank Bonnie for her comments and will certainly forward them on to Loveland Excavating.

10. Don't forget the Smokin' Irish luncheon tomorrow at Terwilliger Lodge. Master Smoker, Terry Donnellon will begin preparations early in the morning along with chef Brian Riblet for the much-anticipated lunch that begins at 11:00 a.m. and runs until 1:00 p.m. Staff is bringing in side dishes and desserts. Plan to come out and enjoy this time of great food and fellowship!
11. An entry level patrol officer civil service written exam will be held this Saturday, October 21. A total of 37 applicants are registered to take the exam. Currently there are two vacant patrol officer positions to fill (due to the retirements of Don Simpson and Greg Schill.)
12. An internal promotional sergeant civil service written exam will be held on Sunday, October 22. Lauren Frazier, Alex Janszen, James Martin and TJ Shreve have registered to take the written exam. Currently there is one vacant sergeant position to fill (due to Greg Vonden Benken's promotion to assistant chief earlier this year in June.) Best wishes and thank you to all four candidates for participating in this important promotional process!
13. The Environmental Advisory Commission will hold their second document destruction/shredding event this Saturday at the public works facility. The event will begin at 10:00 am and end at 1:00 p.m.
14. As a reminder, flu shots will be offered next week. No appointment is necessary. All employees who are covered under the Humana Medical Plan will be covered free of charge. For those employees who are not covered under the City's medical insurance and wish to receive a Flu Shot there will be a \$29.00 charge, which can be paid with cash or check.

Wednesday, October 25 at the following locations:

- 7:00 – 7:30 a.m. Public Works Construction Trailer
- 2:00 – 2:45 p.m. City Hall Council Chambers
- 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. Safety Center PD Break Room

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

Montgomery Farmer's Market makes healthy food affordable

Buying healthy food can be a challenge for lower income shoppers.

This year, Montgomery Farmer's Market began making it easier for people who qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to use their benefits to purchase items at the market.

"Montgomery is a fairly affluent area," Chelf explained. "But 8 percent of kids at Montgomery Elementary are on free/reduced lunch and even more kids at some of the other Sycamore schools use the free/reduced lunch program."

New board members like Ted Reilly saw the need. "In a community like Montgomery, you have individuals sometimes who are almost too proud to ask for assistance," Reilly stated. "But things happen in people's lives. Good jobs are lost or illnesses come up and therefore there is a need everywhere for the SNAP program."

The city of Montgomery awarded the market a "Service to the Community" grant, which helped to defray the up-front costs.

The program has been up and running for two months now. SNAP customers use their Ohio Direction Card to purchase "Farmer Bucks," which can be used to buy meat, cheese, poultry, dairy products, bread, cereal, fruits, and vegetables. Because the market participates in the Produce Perks program as well, SNAP shoppers also receive up to \$10 in matching tokens that can be used to buy fresh fruits or vegetables. This doubles SNAP purchasing power for fresh produce, making healthy food even more affordable.

The market is open 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturdays, May through October at Montgomery Elementary School, 9609 Montgomery Road.