

April 14, 2016

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 April 11, 2016 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, April 20, at 7:00 p.m. Prior to the Work Session at 6:00 p.m., Tony Gardner with the Commonwealth Center for High-Performance Organizations, Inc. will meet with City Council to provide an update on the High Performance Organization model and training conducted with City Council members and staff.
2. At the City Council Business Session last Wednesday, City Council honored Nancy Nolan, Jack Wild, Kathy Lonneman and Todd Steinbrink as our newest inductees into the Volunteer Walk of Fame. These volunteers met the requirement of 250 volunteer hours by serving on various Boards and Commissions, as well as City Council. Each volunteer received a personalized brick placed in the walking path of Montgomery Park. We thank them all for their past and present service to the City. Please see attached article from the Northeast Suburban press.
3. Lieutenant Mark Stagge had shoulder surgery last Thursday and is recovering well. He is expected to return to full duty in six weeks. We wish him a speedy recovery!
4. On Saturday, April 9, Barbara Weishaar volunteered for the tax department from 9:00 a.m. to noon to greet taxpayers and directed them to the tax department. Volunteer help at this very busy tax time is always appreciated.
5. Lieutenant Mike Nelson recently completed a swift water rescue technician course held by the Hamilton County Urban Search and Rescue Team. The course was held in the very cold waters of the Little Miami River. Mike completed the week-long course and gained a whole new respect for the power of swift water as well as 40 degree water! We congratulate him on completing the course, as well as representing the City on this regional team.
6. Assistant Fire Chief Shapiro, Lieutenant Morgan, Lieutenant Nelson and Chief Wright attended a class on *May Days*, which is the universal call for help from trapped, lost or injured firefighters inside a burning structure. This type of distress call is one of the most stressful situations encountered during a ground fire. The instructor covered data from over 1000 *May Days* calls that have occurred across the country and shared with the group what contributes to firefighters caught in a *May Day* situation. The instructor's full report is expected in mid-summer at which time the fire department will make changes to their May Day Standard Operations Policy accordingly.

7. On Monday, the team consisting of Brian Riblet, Julie Machon and Julie Prickett conducted the telephone interview portion of the hiring process for a temporary summer recreation position. The team expects to have a quality candidate hired in time to cover Sarah Fink's absence while she is on maternity leave.
8. Wayne Davis, Tracy Roblero, Brian Riblet, Terry Donnellon and Frank Davis met on Monday afternoon to discuss the most recent shared parking analysis submitted by the developer for the Village section of the Vintage Club. Tracy and Frank have been working with representatives from Traditions Group and McGill Smith Punshon to create a methodology for analyzing the parking at the Vintage Club, and they shared this information with the rest of the team on Monday. Wayne Davis and Terry Donnellon will be meeting with representatives from The Christ Hospital and Brandicorp on Friday to discuss the parking analysis.
9. As reported last week, on Monday, Brian and Wayne were scheduled to attend the Hamilton County Transportation Improvement District (TID) meeting, however, given changes in the TID's agenda for the meeting, Matt Davis advised that it was not necessary that we attend. Matt and staff from DSD Advisors, however, did attend on behalf of the City. Matt suggested instead that we put in place plans to attend the TID meeting on May 23, which is when the TID is expected to recommend three to four projects for funding going forward, with the City's Gateway Redevelopment Area (GRA) being one of these projects. With this upcoming schedule, Matt also recommended that City Council consider sending a letter to the TID highlighting the support of City Council for this project. Wayne will generate a draft letter for City Council to consider at next week's Work Session meeting. Mayor Dobrozsi was also busy with the GRA in the past week, reaching out to Commissioner Portune to communicate the City's appreciation for the TID's consideration of our project.
10. On Tuesday, Tracy was the guest speaker of the Blue Ash/Montgomery Rotary meeting. Tracy spoke eloquently and informatively about her experience with her daughter Juliana's accident and injuries which occurred in 2010. Tracy also highlighted the gem and resource that is Shriner's Hospital in Cincinnati, one of four burn centers in the country. Great job by Tracy!
11. On Tuesday afternoon, Tracy and Wayne met with representatives from Twin Lakes as well as Indian Hill landowners Matt and Dana Emery, and their realtor, Rob Sibcy. This meeting was scheduled to discuss future plans of the Emery's to develop their land that borders Montgomery just behind the First Financial Bank. Staff agreed to follow up with the attendees with some answers to questions that were presented during the meeting.
12. Public works staff began the first week of the Spring Brush Pick-Up Program this week as residents who receive Monday Rumpke services were collected. This popular service will continue for the next four weeks for residents with Tuesday through Friday Rumpke services respectively.
13. On Wednesday, Brian Riblet, Jay Korros, Jeff Heimann, and Doug Hinger met with ODOT officials at District 8 offices in Lebanon to review and discuss traffic alternatives for the interchange at Montgomery Road and SR126, as well as the impacts to the adjacent areas. The meeting was very productive and work will continue on reaching an ultimate outcome of interchange modifications as well as submittals for potential grant funding.
14. The finance department continues other work in addition to tax, including the delivery of a "draft" copy of the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) to the City's Auditors. Finance staff also continues to provide documentation to the Auditors as they continue their financial audit of the City's 2015 financial operations.

15. The Hamilton County Communications Center launched a new Computer Aided Dispatching (CAD) system five weeks ago, but not without its issues. Chief Wright has been working with the Eastside Fire Chiefs to communicate the issues and frustrations with the Communications Center. We are hopeful that the new CAD system will be working as advertised in the very near future.
16. On Friday afternoon, Terry Donnellon and Wayne will be meeting with representatives of The Christ Hospital and Brandicorp in an effort to identify next steps in the development process for the Vintage Club. Staff will provide updates on this meeting during the next week.
17. As a reminder, Planning Commission will meet on Monday, April 18 to consider an application from Twin Lakes for the expansion of a conditional use to allow for the addition of 14 parking spaces on the south side of the property along Perin Road. The Planning Commission will also consider an application from Columbia Acura/Hyundai for the expansion of a conditional use to allow for a new free standing used car building. Finally, the Planning Commission will consider a recommendation to City Council on extending the Interim Development Control District for Sexual Encounter Businesses within the business districts of the City.
18. The Tax Office is ramping up for Tax Day on April 18. Sharon and Cindy are managing the operations quite well with support from Taryn and Robbin, as well as contributions from Katie Smiddy, the City's new finance director. Katie who was in on Saturday, April 9 and will be on Saturday, April 16, does not officially begin her duties until Wednesday, April 20. In addition, other City staff, including Julie Nies and Faith Lynch have been assisting with the flow of tax filings and assisting with customers. Thanks to everyone who continues the great work in assisting our tax customers.
19. Next week from April 19 through 21, Tony Gardner from the Commonwealth Center for High Performing Organizations, Inc. will be spending time with staff and City Council to introduce and review the High Performance Organization (HPO) model that has been the City's work culture since 2001.
20. 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: Wayne Davis, City Manager
Mayor and City Council Members
Department Heads
Terry Donnellon, Law Director



MARIKA LEE/THE COMMUNITY PRESS

From left, Nancy Nolan, Jack Wild, Kathy Lonneman and Todd Steinbrink are being added to the volunteer walk of fame in Montgomery Park.

Montgomery adds four to walk of fame

Marika Lee

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Four Montgomery residents will be added to the volunteer walk of fame in Montgomery Park.

To receive a brick on the walk of fame, which opened in 2014, residents must have volunteered 250 or more hours to the city of Montgomery, Mayor Chris Doborszi said.

Kathy Lonneman was honored for her work with the Sister Cities Commission and the Bastille Day celebration.

"She has applied caring leadership, great dedication and creative attention to the cultural and beautification needs of our community," Councilwoman Gerri Harbison said.

"I enjoy working with the city of Montgomery and will continue to volunteer for the foreseeable future," Lonneman said.

Nancy Nolan was honored for her work with the Arts Commission and the annual photography contest. She is also the co-creator of "Live at the Uni," the music series conducted each year in Universal-

ist Church.

"Nancy is an example of determination and commitment and hard work to the community," Harbison said.

Jack Wild was honored for his work with Beautification Day, Bastille Day and the Sister Cities Program. Wild served as a delegate to Neuilly-Plaisance, France in 2015 and hosted a delegate at his home in 2014.

"Montgomery is a great place to live and I enjoy working with everyone here," Wild said.

Former Mayor Todd Steinbrink was honored for his years of service to the city. Steinbrink was a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals from 2002-2003, a city council member from 2004-2013 and the mayor from 2013-2015.

"Todd has applied caring leadership, fiscal stewardship and dedication to the developing needs of our community and we will benefit now and thereafter for his efforts," Doborszi said.

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

Checkbook gets lukewarm reviews

Staff Report

Want to see how you spent your money last year? You might look at your checkbook – or visit a Web site set up by the Ohio Auditor's Office.

Or maybe not.

Ohio governmental agencies have been asked to post detailed expenditures online via OhioCheckbook.com, but a survey of local officials found many who are not participating in the program, for various reasons ranging from duplication of effort, resources or software incompatibility.

The checkbook database is intended to help make comparisons of expenditures between local governments possible. In March, the U.S. Public Interest Research Group ranked Ohio No. 1 in transparency in the country for providing online access to government spending data, citing the checkbook website.

"Ohio's site populates instant search suggestions based on the letters typed into the search bar, creating a website that looks and behaves much like the top search engines Ohioans most commonly visit and interact with elsewhere on the Internet," the report said. "This feature aids transparency by helping users track down information without needing prior knowledge of exact search terms. In addition, every web page has the phone number and email address for a point of contact in state government, as well as social media 'share' buttons."

Ohio climbed from 46th to first in the spending transparency rankings as a result of the website launch. Ohio received a perfect score of 100 points – the highest score in the history of the U.S. PIRG transparency



PROVIDED

Northwest Local School District Board President Dan Unger with State Treasurer Josh Mandel at press conference announcing Northwest Local School District as the first of 630 public school districts in Ohio to sign up for the Ohio Checkbook, which lets the public view detailed expenditures through the state treasurer's website.

rankings.

"I believe the people of Hamilton County have a right to know how their tax money is being spent and I applaud local leaders here for partnering with the treasurer's office to post their finances on OhioCheckbook.com," Mandel said. "My vision is to create an army of citizen watchdogs who are empowered to hold public officials accountable."

Chris Berry, a spokesman for Mandel, said since the treasurer's office invitation in April, 289 local governments across Ohio committed to partnering with OhioCheckbook.com and officials from Mandel's office are in discussion with an additional 384 local governments.

Local governments and school districts in Hamilton

County that have committed to the program include the Anderson Township Park Special District, the city of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Public Schools, Colerain Township, Deer Park, Elmwood Place, Greenhills, Hamilton County, Lockland Local School District, Montgomery, Newtown, Northwest Local School District, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Reading Community School District, Sycamore Township and Symmes Township.

As for timing, Berry said while each local government is on its own individual time line, the treasurer's office is hoping to have some of the first ones up within the next few months.

What some local governments say about the program:

Montgomery

The city of Montgomery is participating in the Ohio Checkbook and included records from 2010 to 2014 and more years' spending will become available when accounts are closed at the end of the year.

"The added benefit to local residents is that this service is at no cost to the city of Montgomery. This will tell us if our residents want to know more about where their tax dollars are going," City Manager Wayne Davis said.

Sycamore Township

Administrator Greg Bickford said the township has not reconsidered its position on the Ohio Checkbook.

"It's still not worth the extra

time for a limited amount of information it provides," Bickford said.

Sycamore uses an advanced accounting software which can't be uploaded to the state's new system without being highly manipulated, he said. To prepare the data for export would require a significant amount of time on the part of township staff.

The township is not willing to commit more staff time just to participate in the state's checkbook program, especially since the township is always willing to provide public records to anyone who wants them, Bickford said. If the state makes it easier for Sycamore Township to jump on board, then it will reconsider its position.

"Our feeling is, we're not going to commit more staff time just to put something on a website if they're not going to make it easier for us," he said. The township is always willing to provide public records to anyone who wants them.

"Certainly when the state makes it easier for us to jump on board, we will," Bickford said.

Symmes Township

Symmes Township was in the "second wave" of signups, Fiscal Officer Carol Sims said.

"We are not online yet," Sims said. "I had sent them my 2014 information and the data that came back did not match my ending numbers."

She is working with the state in an attempt correct the data.

"And though I think this program would be of interest to the residents, the board (of trustees), at its March meeting, indicated they would like to see the end product before making a decision about putting it online," she said.