

August 4, 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 August 1, 2016 and as an announcement of activities in the coming weeks:

1. As a reminder, the Government Affairs Committee will meet on Monday, August 8 at 4:30 in Council Chambers. The Parks and Recreation and Public Works Committees have cancelled their meetings for the month of August.
2. As of the end of July, Assistant Chief Shapiro has installed 150 photoelectric smoke detectors in homes as part of the Home Safety Check program. We are grateful to the American Red Cross for supplying the smoke detectors for this project.
3. Chief Simpson and Assistant Chief Crowell met with Sheriff Neil and Blue Ash Chief Paul Hartinger on Monday to produce a school bus safety video. The video will be released on social media and the City website soon.
4. We hold Ed Deye's family in our thoughts and prayers as Ed passed away on July 31. He was a firefighter/EMT with the fire department for 13 years serving from 1993 to 2006. Ed was also a dentist in the Montgomery area until his retirement a few years ago. Ed, well done good and faithful servant!
5. On Sunday, July 31, the Request for Qualifications legal was advertised for the search of a Design/Build company to complete proposed public improvements at the Vintage Club. The deadline for submittals is Friday, August 12 at 4:00 p.m.
6. On Monday, Tracy Moore and Staci Reiley with the Auditor of State's Office, attended the Financial Planning Committee meeting to review the City's 2015 financial audit and management report. The Committee also reviewed the 1<sup>st</sup> half Real Estate settlement, June and July Income tax reports, and discussed the status of the 2017-2021 Operating Budget.
7. On Monday, the Civil Service Commission met to certify the results of the firefighter/paramedic examination process and to establish an eligible list for this position classification. Establishing the eligible list is a proactive step as currently there are no fulltime vacancies in the fire department. The Civil Service Commission also authorized a new testing process to create an eligible list for patrol officer. John Crowell, Julie Prickett, Ben Shapiro, Don Simpson and Paul Wright attended the meeting.
8. Officer Gregory Schill represented the City during the 2016 Milford/Miami Township National Night Out on Tuesday.

9. Officers Martin Day, Steve Hoy and Field Training Officer TJ Shreve received a letter of commendation from Chief Paul Hartinger, for their role in assisting the Blue Ash Police Department and the Hamilton County Police Association SWAT Team attempt to apprehend a dangerous felon on July 26th, 2016.
10. On Wednesday, Julie Machon, Julie Kipper, Taryn Radford, Katie Smiddy, Brian Riblet, and Evelyn Dumont met to review the E-Gov software program and identify areas for improvement. Staff is focusing on pool memberships and evaluating various features in the existing software to create further efficiencies.
11. Brian Riblet, Tracy Roblero, Gary Heitkamp, Frank Davis and Jay Korros with CT Consultants met on Wednesday afternoon to discuss the proposed access to and from the Gateway Redevelopment Area
12. On Wednesday, Brian Riblet attended an Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) training at the Springfield Township Civic Center to learn about changes to the grant application process through that agency.
13. At the City Council Business Session held on Wednesday, Scott Bierer was sworn in as one of three new Patrol Officers to the City. Martin Day and Steve Hoy were previously sworn in at the City Council Work Session on July 20, 2016.



14. This morning, Brian Riblet, Katie Smiddy and John Crowell met to review the MVRMA damage claim process. The focus was on streamlining the process and making sure the City receives reimbursement for all damage done to City property.
15. This morning Wayne and Terry Donnellon met with representatives from the Gateway Development Team regarding a prospective tenant for the site at the Gateway Redevelopment Area (GRA). This prospective tenant prefers to keep its name confidential at this point, but has an interest in locating its operations at the site, and wanted to get an understanding of the current schedule for the development of this site.
16. Wayne Davis, Brian Riblet, Tracy Roblero, Gary Heitkamp and Melissa Hays attended the Annual OKI Regional Council of Governments today. The featured speaker was the Honorable Eric Holcomb Lieutenant Governor of Indiana. The luncheon provides an excellent opportunity for staff to remain informed on regional traffic issues facing the region and provides an opportunity to network with other jurisdictions, state and local officials and engineering firms.

17. Touch-A-Truck was held this morning at Weller Park from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and was well attended. Adults and children enjoy getting to climb inside our City dump trucks, backhoes, police cars and fire trucks. This is always a great community event that allows our City staff to engage with the community.
18. Young residents of Buxton Lane delivered handmade "Survival Kits" to the police station on Thursday and made the day of Jim LaCalameto and Greg Vonden Benken as well as all the other staff!



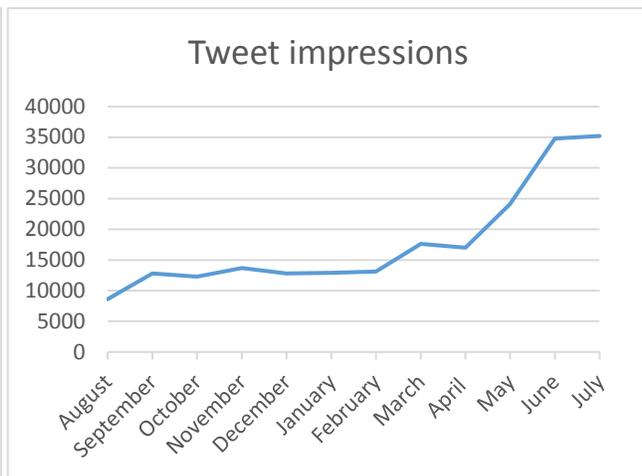
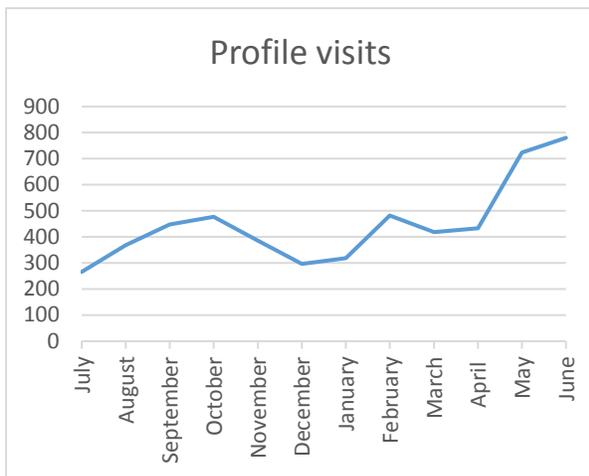
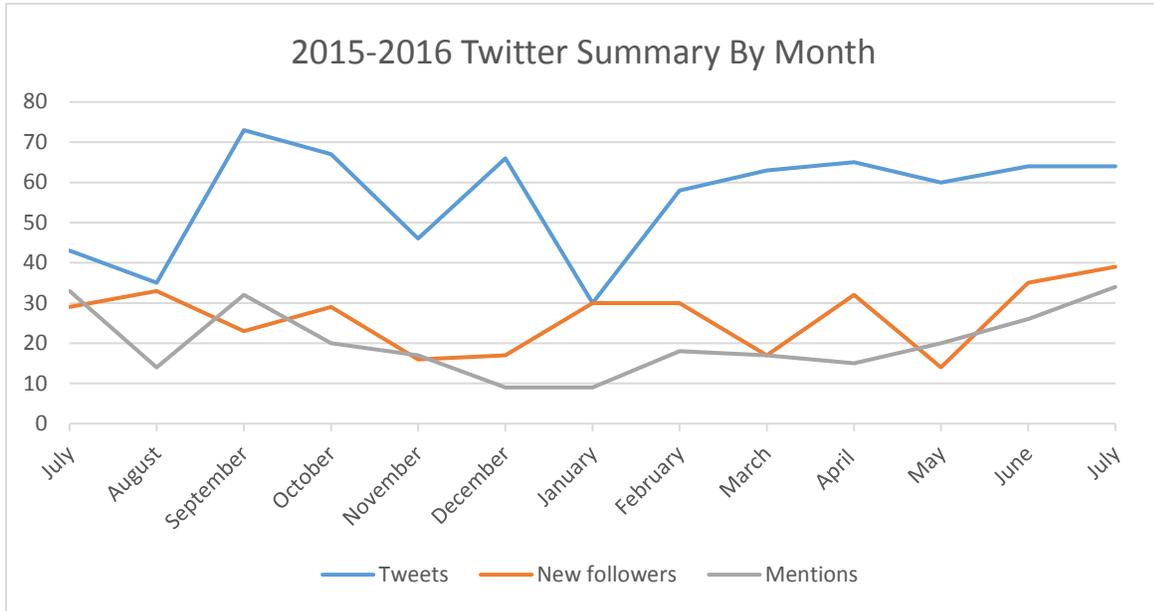
19. Tracy will meet with developers from Vintage Club tomorrow to go over the zoning approvals that are still required for the Village Section. There are three items that need approvals from the Planning Commission and the rezoning for the annexed piece of property and the modified list of conditions/exceptions will need to go on to City Council for approval. The developer is hoping to be on the Planning Commission agenda for all three items on August 15.
20. The HealthCare Benefits Committee will meet tomorrow to review final proposals from various insurance carriers for group health and dental insurance coverages for the upcoming policy year. This year our group experienced some costly claims which has resulted in two carriers opting not to offer a quote. The HCBC plans to have a recommendation to the City Manager by mid-August.
21. As a reminder, the City Council sponsored Pizza Lunch is next Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Swaim Lodge. Don't miss it!
22. Please find attached the July Social Media Report.
23. Please find attached monthly department report from the fire department for the month of July.

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

# June 2016 Social Media Report

## Twitter



### Twitter Analysis:

Total number of new followers climbed by 39 new followers for a total of 969 followers. The top tweet was a tweet about the July 4 parade with 3,295 impressions. The top media tweet was a photo of the downed tree and utility wires at Ross and Campus tweeted on July 14 with 2,139 impressions. The top mention was a tweet done by @TopAviator about the July 4 parade with a photo of the Sycamore Aves Marching Band. This tweet garnered 114 engagements. The top Card tweet was a link posted on July 1 to the City website about the July 4 parade. This tweet had 1,795 impressions.

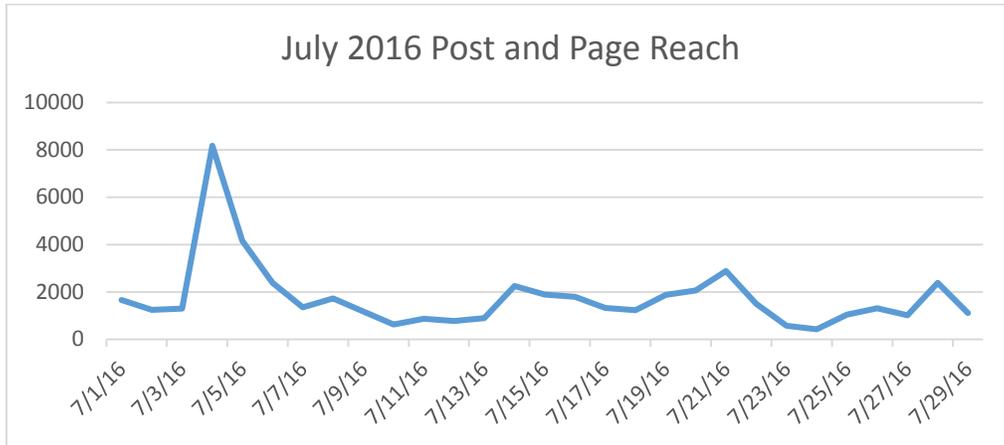
### Twitter Definitions:

Profile visits: Number of users who visited our Twitter site.

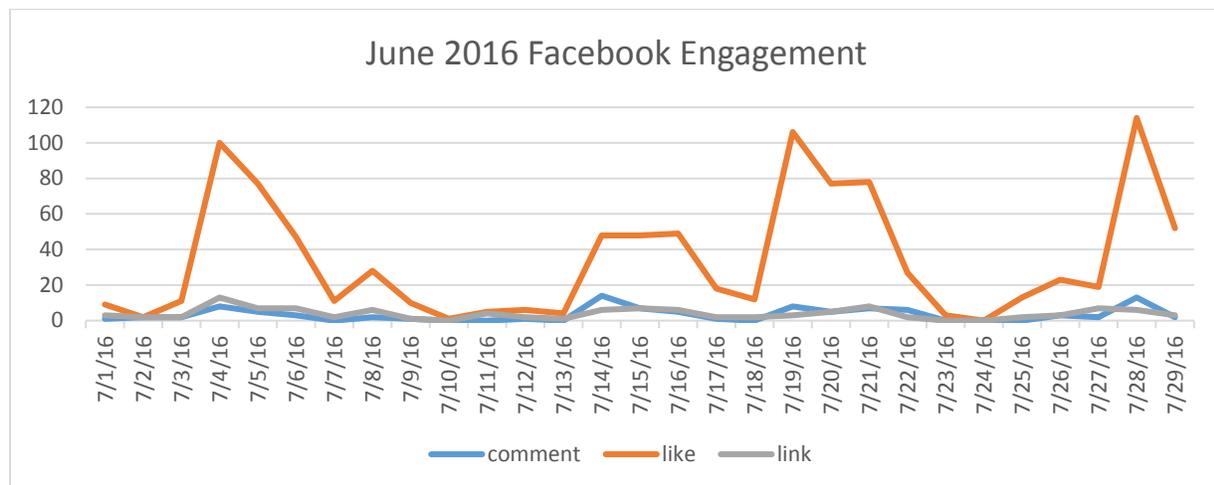
Mentions: Any tweet that contains @montgomeryohio (our username)

Tweet Impressions: Total number of times that our tweet may appear in other user's Twitter feeds, both followers and their followers etc. through shares, mentions and retweets. Shows the reach of the City's brand.

### Facebook



A significant number of people saw the posts from the July 4 holidays. Those posts included a video of the first 10 minutes of the parade, a post for the July 4 Parade winners, a thanks to the parade judges and photos from the day. In all, these posts garnered 8,176 impressions. Another post on July 14 was about the solar-powered crosswalk on Deerfield Road. This post had 2,258 impressions. With 2,880 impressions, the post on July 21 linked to a website posting about the four police officers that joined the Montgomery Police Department. Finally, with 2,385 impressions, the July 28 post about the treats and cards brought to the police and fire departments warmed the hearts of many weary social media followers.



The posts about July 4 were very popular as was a post about Michael A Harbison and his Mayoral Proclamation on July 19. The post about the treats and cards for the fire and police also garnered any likes on social media. I was actually surprised we did not get more interaction with Bastille Day and #MontyBastille hashtag. Perhaps what this tells us is that people are actually having fun with friends and neighbors in real time and not using devices to connect or chase Pokemon.

**Facebook Definitions:**

Daily Reach: The number of people who visited our Facebook Page, or saw our Page or one of its posts in news feed or ticker. These can be people who have liked your Page and people who haven't. (Unique Users)

Daily Positive Feedback (engagement): The number of times people have given positive feedback (like, share link, leave comment) to your Page, by type. (Unique Users)

Instagram

As of July 29, the City page has 152 followers. This is a \_\_\_\_ increase from last month.



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



Police Department

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

Paul W. Hartinger  
Chief of Police

July 28, 2016

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

Dear Chief Simpson,

I am writing to offer my sincere thanks to you and your officers for their assistance in an incident in Blue Ash on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Our officers were dispatched to a residence on Grand Ave. to take a wanted felon into custody. It was believed at the time that this dangerous person was inside and refused to come out. As a result, with the assistance of your officers and other law enforcement agencies, the house was surrounded as we awaited the HCPA SWAT team to make entry.

Our Sergeant requested assistance and immediately received a response from Montgomery which included Officers Martin Day, Steve Hoy and Thomas Shreve. Each of your officers maintained a post and kept our community safe while awaiting the end of the situation. Although the SWAT team discovered the residence to be empty, it gave us comfort to know that we had ample coverage in case the situation escalated.

I believe it is very important for agencies to cooperate in these tense and uncertain circumstances, and it gives me comfort to know your staff will not hesitate to respond when needed. It shows a staunch commitment to the broader communities we serve and the spirit of cooperation needed in our profession.

Please accept my thanks and express to these Officers our sincere appreciation for their efforts and willingness to help when called. Their service was above and beyond the call.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Hartinger  
Chief of Police

**MONTGOMERY FIRE DEPT.  
DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION  
MONTHLY INSPECTION REPORT  
July -2016**

OCCUPANCY CLASS	TOTALS		
	Initial	Re-inspections	Total
RESIDENTIAL _____	5	2	7
PUBLIC BUILDINGS _____	1	1	2
HEALTH CARE FACILITIES _____	3	7	10
CHILD CARE FACILITIES _____	1	0	1
EDUCATIONAL BUILDINGS _____	0	0	0
CHURCHES _____	1	1	2
MERCANTILE _____	37	36	73
Sub Totals: _____	48	47	95

**Other Misc. Inspections:**

- 1 Inspections with NIC
- 2 Foster Care Home Adoption fire safety inspections

**TOTAL INSPECTIONS → 98**

**RESULTS OF INSPECTIONS**

VIOLATIONS ISSUED _____	34
VIOLATIONS CORRECTED _____	76
TOTAL VIOLATIONS ISSUED IN 2016 _____	286
TOTAL VIOLATIONS CORRECTED IN 2016 _____	277
RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED _____	03
RECOMMENDATIONS CORRECTED _____	01
COMPLAINTS ANSWERED _____	00
REFERRALS MADE TO OTHERS _____	00
PERMITS ISSUED _____	00
PERMITS WITHHELD _____	00
APPLIANCES RED TAGGED _____	03
CITATIONS ISSUED _____	00
WARNING TAGS ISSUED _____	00
SUPPLY SYSTEMS INSTALLED _____	00
SPRINKLER SYS. TESTS OBSERVED _____	00
ALARM SYS. TESTS OBSERVED _____	00
FIRE DRILLS OBSERVED _____	00
TORNADO DRILLS OBSERVED _____	00
SYSTEMS TEST CERTIFICATES RECEIVED _____	12
PLAN REVIEWS MADE _____	15

**PROGRAM INVOLVEMENT :**

**Center Learn – Fire pre-plan training**

**Lt. Mark S. Stagge  
Fire Safety Inspector**

# MEMO

**TO:** Wayne Davis  
City Manager

**FROM:** Gregory Harris  
Police Sergeant

**DATE:** August 1, 2016

**REFERENCE:** July 2016 Council Report

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- 7/1 Officer Alexis Guilkey, while on patrol of the business district, located a vehicle stopped in the intersection of Remington and Montgomery Roads. The driver was asleep behind the wheel. After having contact with the driver and a later search of the vehicle, the subject was charged with possession of marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia.
- 7/2 Officer Alex Janszen responded to the area of Solzman Road in Sycamore Township to assist Deputies with a subject that had fled on foot from a traffic stop made by Hamilton County Sheriff units. The subject was later apprehended by Madeira's K9 unit and transported to Bethesda North Hospital.
- 7/3 Officers responded for a juvenile subject who fled from her parent's vehicle and ran into the woods from the Terwilliger s Subdivision. The female juvenile was later located by officers and has transported to Children's Hospital by the Montgomery Life squad.
- 7/4 Second shift officers responded to the Mayfair of Montgomery condominiums for a verbal altercation between a mother and her son. The son was there to pick up property from the residence with his father. Montgomery officers maintained order during the exchange and neither party escalated to a chargeable offense.
- 7/5 Officer Hoy and Field Training Officer Helgeson made a traffic stop in the 9200 block of Montgomery Road. The driver was cited for Marked Lanes violations and for Driving While Under Suspension(s). He also had two active warrants from the City of Deer Park. He was able to post bond to Deer Park, cited and released from the scene. The passenger was also cited and released for possession of marijuana.

- 7/6 Officer Bierer and Field Training Officer Shreve responded to the area of 8715 Tanagerwoods Drive for the complaint of solicitors. Upon arrival, they located a male subject who was going door to door without a permit (Greenix). The subject was identified and warned and sent on his way.
- 7/7 At 0105 hours, Officer Lauren Helgeson located a suspicious, occupied vehicle behind Pomodoris Pizzeria, 7880 Remington Road. A Field Interrogation Report (FIR) was completed on the subject and he was sent on his way.
- 7/8 Officer Scott Bierer and Sergeant Michael Plaatje responded to assist Bethesda North Security officers with a subject becoming verbally abusive. This was a family dispute at the hospital inside the Emergency Room. All parties were separated and escorted from the property.
- 7/9 Dayshift Officers responded to 9501 Montgomery Road for protestors gathering in front of Kotsovos Furs and Fine Apparels. Upon arrival, multiple protestors were gathered on the sidewalk not impeding traffic or being disorderly. The situation was monitored without incident.
- 7/10 Officer Alexis Guilkey and Sergeant Michael Davenport responded to the BP gas station at 6151 Pfeiffer Road to assist Blue Ash police units with a disorderly, intoxicated subject causing a disturbance. The subject was arrested and transported to the Blue Ash Police department.
- 7/11 Officer Martin Day and Field Training Officer James Martin responded to 9724 Ross Avenue to assist the elderly homeowner with an unknown beeping sound inside the residence. The sound was coming from low batteries in a carbon monoxide detector and were changed for the resident.

- 7/12 Sergeant Michael Plaatje responded to Montgomery Park to investigate a suspicious male subject, wearing only shorts and black, fingerless gloves at the basketball court. The subject was there in search of Pokemon Go and sent on his way.
- 7/13 Officer Alex Janszen responded for a tree and live wires down over the roadway in the area of 9600 Ross Avenue. Upon arrival, he discovered that an unoccupied vehicle had been struck by the falling tree during the storm. Montgomery Fire Department secured the area and called for Duke Energy to respond.
- 7/14 Officer Schill responded to 7600 block of Kennedy Lane for the report of a burglary that had occurred at this residence. The homeowner stated that unknown subjects entered through a rear window. Nothing was removed from the home and several investigative leads have been followed-up on per witnesses in the area. At this time the incident is still under investigation. Detective Lacalameto is working in conjunction with the Madeira Police Department and also with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department on the case. Both of these neighboring agencies also had similar offenses on the same day.
- 7/15 Officer Martin Day and Field Training Officer TJ Shreve responded to Market Place Lane to see a complainant regarding her missing friend from the night before. According to the complainant, her friend left McClevey's Pub with a male subject at around 0200 hours and she had not heard from her since. During the course of the investigation, Officers learned that both subject were located in the City of Blue Ash deceased. The Blue Ash Police Department is handling the death investigation.
- 7/16 Sergeant Michael Davenport conducted traffic stop in the 6200 block of Pfeiffer Road for a vehicle throwing food containers from the car. Upon contact with the driver and occupants, the subjects were arrested for underage consumption of alcohol and one subject, while in custody, was found to be in possession of powdered cocaine and subsequently arrested for this violation as well.

- 7/17 Officer Alex Janszen responded to 10500 Montgomery Road, to the Bethesda North Hospital Emergency Room, for the report of a rape victim. Upon conducting the initial investigation, it was discovered that the offense occurred in Butler County. The Butler County Sheriff's Department was contacted and responded to the hospital to take over the investigation.
- 7/18 Officer Martin Day and Field Training Officer TJ Shreve responded to Interstate 71 at the 15.3 milepost to assist a disabled motorist. Upon contact with the driver of the vehicle and a records check being conducted, he was found to be in operation of the vehicle while under multiple suspensions. The officers also discovered that the registration for the vehicle being operated did not match the response from the BMV. The driver was also found to be in possession of marijuana and a marijuana grinder.
- 7/19 Officer Nicolas Nimeskern responded to the 9800 block of Montgomery Road, at a local retail outlet, for the report of an employee theft from that location. Upon reviewing the video surveillance of the incident, charges are pending for the employee in question.
- 7/20 Officer Guilkey responded to Weller Park at 0154 hours for the report of suspicious activity. Upon arrival, Officer Guilkey had contact with three subjects in the park playing Pokemon Go. None of the subjects were residents of the City and sent on their way.
- 7/21 Officer Steve Hoy responded to the 14.6 milepost on Interstate 71 for a fully engulfed vehicle fire. All subjects were out of the vehicle and the Montgomery Fire Department extinguished the blaze.
- 7/22 Officer Paul Payne responded to the 7700 block of Remington Road for the theft of running shoes and a gift card from an unlocked motor vehicle during the overnight hours. This case is open and there are no suspects at this time.
- 7/23 At 0208 hours, while on patrol, Officer Alex Janszen observed multiple subjects begin fighting in the 9300 block of Montgomery

Road. Upon calling for additional units to respond to assist, Officer Alex Janszen was able to gain control of the situation as backup units arrived on the scene. Two subjects were FIR'd and sent on their way. Prosecution was declined.

7/24 Officers Greg Schill and James Martin responded to the 10000 block of Montgomery Road for the report of a subject who test drove a vehicle and upon return, kept the key fob. To take precautions, the dealership moved the 2016 vehicle indoors until the key fob can be recovered. This case is still open.

7/25 Officer Alex Janszen responded for an intrusion alarm in the 9400 block of Montgomery Road at one of the City's most well established eateries. The property was found to be secure and the detail was logged without incident.

7/26 Officer Lauren Helgeson responded mutual aid into the City of Madeira for a robbery in progress on Laurel Avenue. She assisted with establishing a perimeter post in the area. Turns out the K9 track was unsuccessful in trailing the suspect.

7/27 Officer Lauren Helgeson located a female subject sleeping in her vehicle at a closed business in the 9700 block of Montgomery Road. A field interrogation report was completed on this female and she was then sent on her way. The subject resides in Blue Ash.

7/28 Officers Nick Nimeskern and Gregory Schill responded to Bethesda North Hospital for a female subject who was attempting to use heroin within the facility while being treated. She was arrested for possession of heroin and transported to the Hamilton County Justice Center.

7/29 Sergeant Gruber responded to the 9300 block of Montgomery Road for an assault between co-workers. While being investigated, the 'victim' declined prosecution and all parties were advised to have no contact with each other outside of their employment.

7/30 Officer Guilkey, along with Officer Day and Field Training Officer Shreve were conducting a vacation check of a residence on Laurelview Drive. They discovered the rear door of the property ajar and made entry to check the residence. Inside they located marijuana bongs and marijuana in baggies on the counter in the kitchen area. The twenty year old house sitter was cited and given corresponding court dates for the weed and paraphernalia.

7/31 Officer Janszen and Officer Guilkey were busy assisting neighboring agencies over the weekend. Officer Janszen assisted Blue Ash Police with an OVI arrest and Officer Guilkey assisted Sycamore Township with an auto accident with injuries. It is great to see the inter-department cooperation working together to achieve the same goals.

### July 2016 MONTGOMERY POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAINING

Officer Paul Payne attended the National School Resource Officers' conference in sunny California

Sergeant Gregory Harris was at OPOTA (Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy) instructing Pursuit Termination Techniques and Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT) for vehicle pursuits.

Assistant Chief John Crowell attended the FBI National conference held in St. Louis, Missouri.

# Landmark ornament program celebrates 20 years

**Marika Lee**  
mlee1@communitypress.com

A program celebrating Montgomery history celebrates its 20th year.

The Woolley-Kelsch House, 7967 Cooper Road, has been selected as the 2016 Landmark Ornament.

"This particular landmark has been well kept and well preserved, which is always great to see when looking at these old buildings," said Kaye Gaffney, ornament program coordinator.

The Landmark Ornament program began in 1997 as a fundraising project to help restore stained-glass windows at Fellowship Baptist Church, which was formerly the Hopewell-Montgomery Presbyterian Church.

"It was the first church in Montgomery and the people there didn't have enough money to restore the windows. So, we started fundraising for them," Gaffney said.

Today, the proceeds from the ornament sales go toward restoring the city-owned historic landmarks.

The Woolley-Kelsch House is a two-story Victorian style residence. Early owners of the property are thought to have been original settlers of Montgomery, such as Nathaniel Terwilliger, Joseph Crist, Cornelius Snyder and Lodowick Weller.

James and Christina Baker sold the property to Joseph Woolley for \$500 in 1884. It is thought Woolley built the house on the property before he sold the property to John J. Fallon for \$2,250 in 1888. There is also a two-story barn on the property. It is thought that there was once a tavern on the property as well.

In 1980, Montgomery City Council made the house a landmark. Thomas C. Kelsch was the owner of the house at the time. The house is owned by Sharon and Thomas Hattersley.

The Woolley-Kelsch house ornaments and the other 21 ornaments from the last 20 years

## MONTGOMERY LANDMARK ORNAMENTS

1997: Hopewell-Montgomery Presbyterian Church and stained glass window ornaments, 9430 Shelley Lane, circa 1829

1998: Wilder Swaim House, corner Cooper and Zig Zag Roads, 1832

1999: Universalist Church, corner of Montgomery Road and Remington Avenue, 1837

2000: Yost Tavern, 7872 Cooper Road, 1805

2001: Crain-Conklin House, 9463-9465 Montgomery Road, 1820

2002: Pioneer Building, 9433 Montgomery Road, 1818

2003: Weller House, 7795 Cooper Road, 1807

2004: Blair-Barker House, 7844 Remington Avenue, 1875

2005: Snider House, 7789 Cooper Road, 1817

2006: Former City Hall, 7816 Cooper Road, 1925

2007: Bell House, 9521 Montgomery Road, 1825

2008: James Ayres House, 9423 Montgomery Road, 1820

2009: Pure Oil Gas Station, 9423 Shelley Lane, 1930s

2010: Mason House, 9257 Montgomery Road, 1861

2011: Stix/Durbow House, 10451 Grand Oaks Lane, 1928

2012: Patmore-Lumley House, 7919 Cooper Road, 1810

2013: Cameron-Feintheil House, 7893 Cooper Road, 1891

2014: Parrott-Smith House, 7712 Cooper Road, 1897

2015: Crain Eberhard House, 7737 Remington Road, 1884

2016: Woolley-Kelsch House, 7967 Cooper Road, 1886



THANKS TO FAITH LYNCH  
The Landmark Ornament program is celebrating its 20th year.

## Ornament

Continued from Page 1A

are available for \$7 each or two for \$12. The complete set is also available for \$120. Ornaments can be purchased at Montgomery City Hall throughout the year.

"We have 32 landmarks in the city and the goal is to have an ornament for all of them," Gaffney said.

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

See ORNAMENT, Page 2A



THANKS TO FAITH LYNCH  
The Woolley-Kelsch House has been chosen for the 2016 Landmark Ornament.

# Ohio cities might need \$2B rainy day fund

## Legislature might have to revisit how to handle recent cutbacks which have hurt local governments

**Rich Exner**  
(Cleveland) Plain Dealer

CLEVELAND – The good news for the state budget outlook is that Ohio's rainy day fund has grown to more than \$2 billion, including another \$30 million deposited into the account last week.

But not all is swell for many local governments still reeling from state tax and budget decisions over the last few years that directly hurt their ability to deliver services.

Could it be time now to revisit some of the policy changes that in part led to local tax hikes for residents of some cities and cuts for residents of other places to core services such as street repairs and garbage collections?

As part of cleveland.com's ongoing series – Impact 2016: Where the cuts hurt most – we explore whether the growth in the rainy day fund might signal an opportunity for state lawmakers to consider coming to the aid of hurt villages and cities?

Cleveland.com's Robert Higgs reported Wednesday how the rainy day fund has been replenished from near zero in 2011. Meanwhile, Cleveland.com over the last few months has outlined how some cities have

suffered at the same time and have blamed the state.

Kent Scarrett, who represents Ohio's cities and villages as executive director of the Ohio Municipal League, said the growth in the rainy day fund illustrates what has not been a fair deal for cities.

"Our cities and villages contributed to that state recovery" by absorbing cuts imposed by the state, Scarrett said. "But our local communities continue to struggle."

But John Charlton, spokesman for the Ohio Office of Budget and Management, said the rainy day fund should be viewed as an insurance policy for both state and local governments going forward.

"Given the fact that 85 cents of every dollar in the general revenue fund is passed along to locals, the Budget Stabilization Fund (rainy day savings account) is actually protecting communities should the economy unexpectedly turn sour," Charlton said in an emailed response.

At least 38 cities and villages increased their local income tax rates in 2015 and 2016, state records show.

Others will seek voter approval of tax increases this fall, including:

» Athens, income tax from 1.65 percent to 1.85 percent.

» Cleveland, income tax from 2 percent to 2.5 percent.

» Newark, income tax from 1.75 percent to 2 percent.

» South Euclid, a 5.75-mil property tax.

» Springfield, income from 2 percent to 2.4 percent.

Local governments lost substantial money from two changes by the Republican-controlled legislature and Gov. John Kasich since 2011.



**I think the legislature is really starting to gravitate to the needs of infrastructure in our local governments. The framing continues to change."**

KENT SCARRETT, executive director of the Ohio Municipal League

» The estate tax was abolished. Local communities had received 80 percent of the tax money paid by the

estates of deceased residents.

» The Local Government Fund was cut about in half. The fund was first set up during the Depression to provide money to local governments, when the state reduced local property tax rates across the state.

Kasich administration officials have maintained that the cuts to local governments represented only a small share of local budgets; so it was unfair to blame the state for the problems some cities were experiencing. And they said many local governments needed to tighten their belts, as the state was doing.

Some of the cuts helped the state balance its budget and then to pay for cuts in income tax rates the governor's office has maintained was good tax policy to stimulate the economy.

Cleveland.com recently interviewed candidates statewide in races for open Ohio Senate seats, and found a majority favored at least exploring the issue of restoring some of the money cities have lost from the state.

Scarrett said he has been hearing the same, even from officeholders.

"I think the legislature is really starting to gravitate to the needs of infrastructure in our local governments," Scarrett said. "The framing continues to change. There may be a move away from giving back our local government revenue money, and more to the needs of our communities."