

June 23, 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 June 20, 2016 and as an announcement of activities in the coming weeks:

1. Last Friday, Julie Prickett attended the Ohio Public Employer Labor Relations Association (OHPELRA) 2016 Summer Program at the Columbus Police Department Training Academy. Topics included strategic approaches to managing Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave, an update on case law regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and an update from the State Employment Relations Board (SERB) regarding trends in labor negotiations.
2. The Pool Luau was held this past Friday night and was once again a huge success with over 350 people in attendance. This popular event included free sno-cones, a steel drum band, fire juggler, games followed by the movie Dolphin Tale 2. Thanks to everyone's efforts for making this event successful.
3. Congratulations to Sarah Fink and her family on the birth of little Donovan on Tuesday, June 21, 2016. Donovan was born at 11:03 a.m. weighing 6 pounds 15 ounces and 20 inches long. All are doing fine and we wish them very best during this special time!
4. Scott Bierer, the third of three new police officer hires, began his employment with the City on Wednesday. Scott has almost 16 years of experience with the Ohio State Highway Patrol as well as several years of experience with the Hamilton County Health Department. Please welcome Scott to the City of Montgomery team!
5. The oral test portion of the Civil Service examination process for the position of firefighter/paramedic was conducted on Wednesday for six candidates. The oral test panel consisted of Paul Wright, Julie Kipper, Julee Nies, Julie Prickett and Greg Vonden Benken. The Civil Service process will create an eligibility list for the firefighter/paramedic classification in the event of future vacancies.
6. Crews from Complete General Construction continue work on the HAM-71-17.17 Cornell Road Bridge Project which is sponsored and administered by ODOT. We have been posting several nightly lane closures for I-71 in conjunction with this project. Cornell Road will remain closed throughout the project which is anticipated being substantially complete prior to the return to school for Sycamore in August.
7. Elex, Inc. continues work on the 2016 Traffic Signal Project as crews poured the foundation and are preparing to install the new natural gas back-up generator for the traffic signal at Cooper Road and Delray Drive. This project continues to be on course with much of the work

being completed prior to the beginning of Sycamore School in August. The contractual deadline for the project remains at October 31, 2016.

8. Wayne was in Columbus today to attend an Ohio City/County Management Association (OCMA) Board Meeting. This was his last meeting before taking his position as the Vice President of the OCMA on July 1 under Tom Carroll of Silverton as the new OCMA President. Among items covered at today's meeting were: Internships for The Next Generation; Changes in membership Dues Structures; Upcoming Training for OCMA Members and on-going work for the 2022 ICMA Conference to be held in Columbus. Wayne is appreciative of the opportunity to participate in this professional group of managers across the State.
9. Pre-Construction meetings were held today for the 2016 Street Resurfacing Program and the 2016 Bituminous "Black Mat" Project. Work on both projects is anticipated to begin in late June or early July. The completion date for the Resurfacing Program is scheduled for October 21, 2016 while the Bituminous "Black Mat" Project must be completed by August 16, 2016.
10. Public works crews are busy preparing for the upcoming July 3/4 festivities as American Flags and Bunting were installed throughout the Montgomery Corridor this week. Crews have also been preparing Montgomery Park by performing maintenance on the walkway, painting lighting bollards, removing and planting trees, and assuring all electrical needs will be accommodated.
11. The Beautification and Tree Commission is hosting the second annual 2016 Tree and Garden Tour this Sunday, June 26, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Attendees can begin the tour at Swaim Park or Pioneer Park, where Garden tour maps will be available. There are five residential gardens on display as well as the gardens located on the grounds of the Twin Lakes North Campus, located off of Hopewell Road. This event is free of charge and does not require registration.
12. Chief Simpson recently received a letter from Warren County Sheriff Larry Sims expressing his gratitude for our assistance during the recent shooting incident of Deputy Katie Barnes. Please see the attached letter.
13. Our very own Terry Willenbrink was featured as the cover story for the July edition of the Sycamore Living publication. The article covers the annual Arbor Day Walk that Terry hosts, as well as recognizing the Beautification and Tree Commission and City staff for their continued efforts in retaining our Tree City USA status. We thank Terry for his commitment to keeping our City and parks looking so beautiful and for helping to educate our residents as well.

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

LARRY L. SIMS
SHERIFF



BARRY K. RILEY
CHIEF DEPUTY

WARREN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

June 17, 2016

Montgomery Police Department
Chief Don Simpson
10150 Montgomery Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242

Chief Simpson,

Without question, the shooting of Deputy Katie Barnes during the late hours of June 9th, 2016, was as close to tragedy as anyone of us would likely face. Fortunately, this incident had a successful resolution with the subsequent apprehension of the assailant. Your agency and its members had a direct contribution to how we managed this critical incident, and I feel confident in saying the success of this night would not have been possible without this overwhelming support.

The professionalism, resources and dedication of your crew to our office is nothing short of exceptional. I want to thank all of those who participated in helping us through this difficult time.

Please pass on our gratitude to those who responded. Trust me when I say they represented your agency and our profession in the highest manner possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry L. Sims'.

Larry L. Sims
Sheriff

Sycamore Living

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MONTGOMERY'S TREES EARN THEIR KEEP UNDER CITY ARBORIST'S CARE

By Cathy Hollander

Every year for the past 20 years, the City of Montgomery has won a national award recognizing them for their trees. Annually since 1996, Montgomery has been selected for a Tree City USA award. They've also won a growth award recognizing their environmental improvement and higher levels of tree care.

"That's really difficult to get and we've received it 17 times out of the 20 years," said city arborist Terry Willenbrink.

The award requires a tree care ordinance. If any tree is in the city's right of way, it will be cared for. To be a Tree City also requires a comprehensive community forestry program, a city arborist, and an annual Arbor Day observance and proclamation by the mayor. They also must have a tree board or department.

Montgomery's Beautification and Tree Commission develops and updates a plan for the care of the city's trees, advises on financial budgeting, proposes programs, supervises the city council on these undertakings, as well as reports on the progress. They are involved with the Arbor Day celebrations, Tree City USA recognition, and tree workshops. The Beautification and Tree Commission members are Jodi Keith, chair; Aaron Kellenberger, vice chair; and members Shirley Freedman, Helen Grimes, Jane Hohn, Martha Seaman and Jacquie Webb.

Willenbrink's goal is for the City of

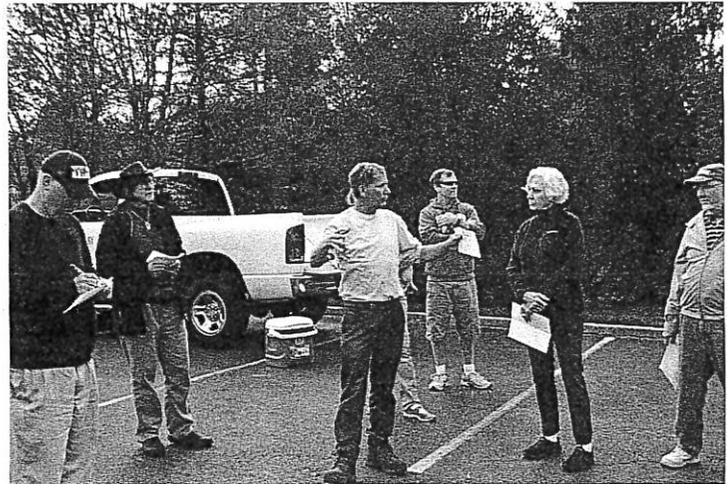
Montgomery to plant at least 100 trees a year and usually averages more than 200 a year. This year, they planted 200 trees.

"I love trees and I love the planting of the trees in our city," said Willenbrink.

In addition to the many varieties of oaks and maples in Montgomery, Willenbrink makes sure there is a diverse selection of trees.

"My goal is if a resident calls and asks where there's an American beech planted, for example, I would have one somewhere in Montgomery," said Willenbrink.

Although Montgomery's downtown is known for its pear trees, the city isn't planting anymore because they are invasive, overgrowing everything. Instead, they are planting skyline locust. Willenbrink increases diversity with tulip trees and black gums and a variety of other trees. He's replaced a lot of ash trees with salt tooth oak trees that have the same look and height. There's a five-year plan addressing the em-



City Arborist Terry Willenbrink explains reforestation techniques to Brodie Mitchell, center, JoAnne Allen and Pete Teitelman

erald ash borer problem. The arborist has been monitoring them, evaluating which ones to remove first, and which ash trees can be saved. The city still maintains 165 ash trees, but treating them is costly. In considering what trees to plant, Willenbrink also considers fall colors.

"In fall, Swaim Park explodes with beautiful color from the maple trees and black gum and other trees with beautiful fall colors," said Willenbrink. "I did the same thing on the island when coming from Blue Ash to Montgomery."

The city goes above and beyond what's required to receive these tree awards. They

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plan changes to make the environment friendlier to trees. The city installed a pervious concrete sidewalk using a concrete with high porosity at Sycamore High School on Cornell Road so that when rain hits the concrete it penetrates the sidewalk and into the soil instead of running off.

"When we've had large construction projects and roadway improvement projects, we've gone to great lengths to save existing trees rather than having them removed," said Brian Riblet, public works director. "It involves working with utilities and planning and getting everything to work."

For example, last year in front of Bethesda North Hospital on the east side of Montgomery, they had about 10 mature red oak trees that they didn't want to lose because of their beauty. The city cleaned them up, treated and watered them. After the construction, they monitored and dead wooded them. They also had the utility company raise the power line higher than the trees in that stretch in order to protect them.

The city has enhanced programming and educational opportunities. They post workshops on tree related topics and partner with volunteers to do tree plantings.

"I do a walk for the community every Arbor Day," said Willenbrink. This year's walk was on April 29. Willenbrink prepared a handout of the trees he was showing everyone.

In the early 1990s, the city began a tree donation program. People can buy a tree for a city park, which has become very popular. For the plaques at the base of the trees, the city is switching to brick so they don't get buried under mulch as easily. The city will also plant trees in residents' yards for \$75 a tree.

For additional information about the Tree City USA program or the Arbor Day Foundation, visit www.arborday.org.



While on his annual Arbor Day Walk, City of Montgomery Arborist Terry Willenbrink points out black knot fungal disease on a Canada red chokecherry tree found in Dulle Park.



City Arborist Terry Willenbrink explains to a Montgomery resident how to care for their trees



JoAnne Allen, left, Kristy Felss, and her daughter Caroline listen to Terry Willenbrink describe how to care for forsythia shrubs



City Arborist Terry Willenbrink points out a flowering dogwood on the 2016 Arbor Day Walk